

# Communists in Portugal open fire on rioters

ension in the north of Portugal grew yesterday after another night of rioting saw besieged Communists firing on demonstrators. General Otelio de Carvalho, one of the ruling triumvirate, visited Oporto to discuss military discipline. A new Government is to be sworn in today.

## General tries to heal Army split in north

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After his release, Mr Stebbins, the American Consul in Kuala Lumpur, is embraced by his wife.

## Japanese gunmen head for Libya

From Hugh Mabbett  
Kuala Lumpur, Aug 7

A Japanese Air Lines DC8 aircraft left Kuala Lumpur airport early this evening with 10 Japanese guerrillas heading for refuge in Libya. A crew of nine and two Japanese and two Malaysian hostages were also on board. Fifteen other hostages were released minutes before the aircraft took off.

## Policy of state aid for ailing companies suffers sharp reversal

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, gave a clear signal to British manufacturers yesterday that the policy of his predecessor, Mr Wedgwood Benn, of doling out government aid to apparently limitless quantities to ailing companies is being sharply reversed.

## The Queen's Silver Jubilee to be celebrated

By a Staff Reporter

The Queen's Silver Jubilee is to be celebrated in the summer of 1977, Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

## University building plans cut by half

By Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent

The building programme for universities and colleges in 1976-77 has been cut at half that of the current year.

## Government pledge to end tied cottages

By David Leigh

The Government plans to abolish tied cottages on farms and give 70,000 farmworkers the protection of the Rent Act against eviction.

## Mrs Gandhi takes full powers

From Edward Cody,  
the Associated Press correspondent who yesterday was given 24 hours to leave India  
Delhi, Aug 7

Mrs Gandhi had the Indian Constitution amended today to end the courts' power to rule on her conviction of electoral abuses and her authoritarian emergency decrees.

## Treasury delay over cash limits criticized

By Tim Congdon  
Economics Staff

Strong criticism of the Treasury's approach to the introduction of cash limits is contained in the twelfth report of the House of Commons Expenditure Committee, published yesterday.

## London has its hottest August day

By a Staff Reporter

London had its hottest August day since records began in 1940, when the temperature yesterday reached 32.3°C (90°F).

## Official body to review pop festival policies

By Arts Reporter

The Government has ordered a review of public policy on pop festivals, including the festivals of the one to take place at Wexham near Swindon, later this year.

## Pound at new low

The pound fell to another all-time low against the dollar yesterday, closing at \$2.1055, more than 2 cents down from Wednesday's closing rate of \$2.1275.

## Yard chief's pledge on ousting squatters

Owners of furnished houses were given an assurance yesterday by Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, that the police would not hesitate to help them to get rid of illegal squatters.

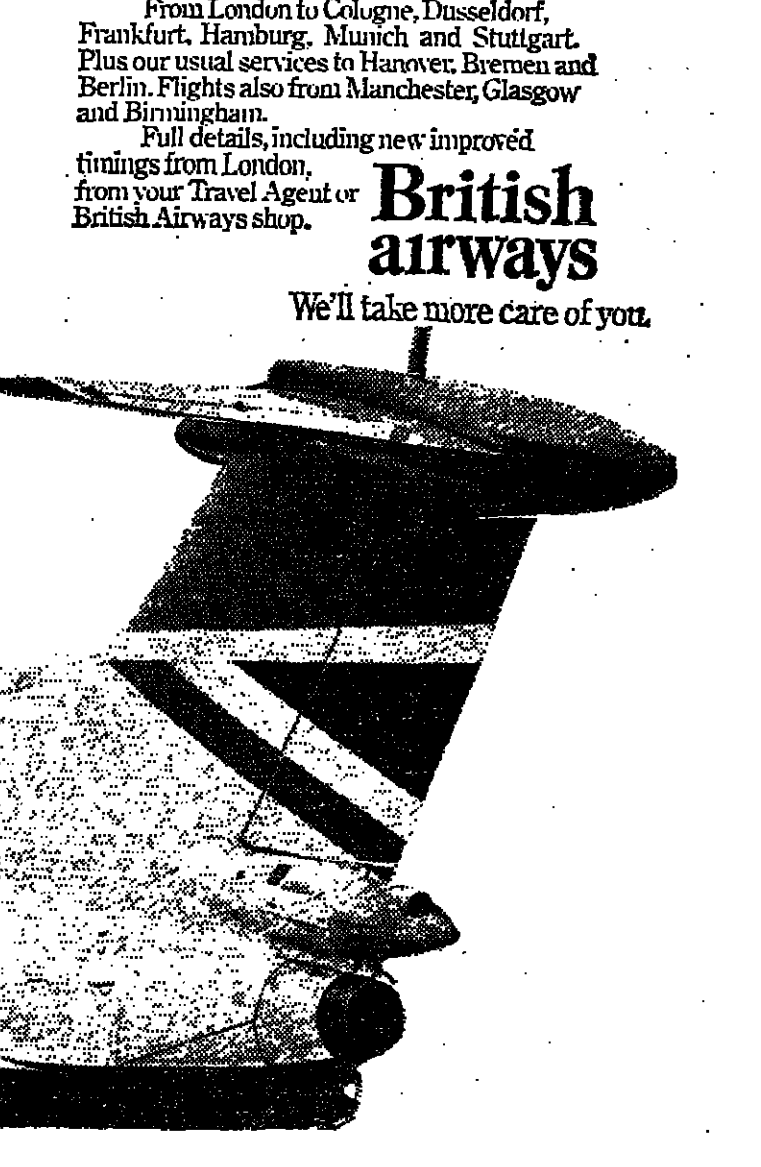
## Resignation of Scottish junior minister

By Our Political Staff

Lord Kirkhill is to be Minister of State at the Scottish Office in succession to Lord Hughes, who has resigned with effect from today, the start of the parliamentary summer recess.

## Fly the flag 1st Class to Germany

From London to Cologne, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Stuttgart. Plus our usual services to Hanover, Bremen and Berlin. Flights also from Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham.



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## HOME NEWS

## 120,000 hurt in schools each year, report says

By Our Education Correspondent

More than 120,000 children are injured at schools in England and Wales each year, according to a disturbing report today in *Where*, the magazine of the Advisory Centre for Education.

Mrs Moyra Bremner, a teacher, says that in her authority there are 454 accidents in a typical year. Some are minor but at least one is fatal. They represent 1.4 per cent of the school roll and that means that about 20 children in a large comprehensive school may expect to be injured each year.

Mrs Bremner calls for statistics to be kept by the Department of Education and Science so that safety regulations could be monitored. Some local education authorities, she says, are beginning to discourage the reporting of all but the most serious injuries, and she continues:

It looks as if accident reports are kept more to protect the authorities in the event of prosecution rather than to monitor the safety of children.

Practical and science departments, she says, contain potential hazards more akin to the factory floor, while the wider range of sports increases the possibility of accidents, as the deaths of two boys struck by a tennis ball showed.

The safety of teachers is protected by the Health and Safety at Work Act, she says, but responsibility for the children is shared by five different authorities. It is little wonder that rules are not enforced.

Mrs Bremner says that the example of the DES, in an external series of safety booklets, is not being followed. She says that on those schools where there is a risk of danger to eyes. Last April a child died during a chemistry experiment into the faces of 16 children.

Mr. Terry Hamp was blinded in County Down when a similar explosion blew these boys. He is now wearing eyeglasses. It was by no means an isolated case, she says. The DES recommendations in Book 1, which cannot even afford to be to be reviewed, she says, are not being followed.

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Miss Mari Sato, one of a party of Japanese students visiting Scotland, is given some basic bagpipe training at Edinburgh University.

## Care over violence on TV urged

By Kenneth Gosling Arts Reporter

Although research has produced little evidence of any direct causal connection between violence on television and violence in real life that does not reduce the obligation on broadcasters to exercise continued care, a report published today says.

It is the second by the Independent Broadcasting Authority's working party on the portrayal of violence on television.

It notes, and welcomes, the fact that most researchers have moved away from the traditional search for a direct causal relationship between viewing and subsequent aggressive behaviour, towards a recognition that television is only one of many factors that may affect human behaviour.

More attention, it says, should be paid to the medium's potential for encouraging social behaviour and inhibiting anti-social or aggressive behaviour.

Television is perhaps the most powerful medium of mass communication, and the probability that in certain circumstances it will influence individual human behaviour must be recognized.

Research into television should not ignore the potentially positive influence of programmes that encourage growth in imagination, awareness of others and sensitivity towards pain in others.

Even if it does not motivate, the report says, the portrayal of violence may reinforce aggressive tendencies, particularly on the part of those who are already, for other reasons, emotionally unstable.

In the field of news, current affairs and documentaries, it advocates care in "the reporting and presentation of interviews with persons associated with violent acts which might, by giving prominence to the views of such a person, offer to the unstable or violently disposed seemingly rational and cogent arguments that could weaken the normal inhibitions they might otherwise have against resorting to violence."

Continuing attention should be paid to ensuring that the visual representation of violent events is included in news and actuality programmes "strictly in accordance with the event's importance as news and to the degree essential to the integrity and completeness of the report."

Research should be encouraged into the nature of the individual viewer's perception of the total news picture, including an analysis of regional news and news magazine output, in relation to regional, economic and social circumstances and to national and international news as presented by other media of communication.

The working party has also been studying the experimental warning system that began in the Midlands two years ago; it feels a distinction has to be drawn between what might be "disturbing" (or offensive) and what might be harmful.

The *Portrayal of Violence on Television*, second interim report by the IBA working party (Independent Broadcasting Authority, 70 Brompton Road, London, SW3 1BY).

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## WEST EUROPE

## Algerian workers seized by sons of former Muslim soldiers for the return of boy to France

From Richard Wigg Paris, Aug 7

Algeria's Chargé d'Affaires in France raised hopes tonight for an end to 24 hours of tension with diplomatic overtones which involved a seven-year-old French boy detained in Algeria and four Algerian workers held hostage in southern France.

At the centre of the tension are 10 *Harkis*, former Muslim soldiers who fought on the French side in the Algerian war of independence and who are highly suspicious of the Algerian authorities.

The boy is the son of a former *Harki* who had been taken by his mother to Algeria for a holiday but had not been allowed to return because the Algerian police said his papers were not in order.

Mr. Ahmed Cherif, the chargé, promised here tonight that the boy, Borzou Kradou, would be on the first commercial flight tomorrow from Oran.

The trouble began last night when 10 young *Harkis*, all sons of former combatants, who have French nationality, seized an act of revenge, the Algerian workers at a hotel while they were watching television.

Earlier hopes that the tension between the two communities could be resolved, were dashed this afternoon when the boy failed to emerge from an Air France Boeing 727 when it landed at Toulouse airport from Oran.

Officials said they had word that the boy was at the French Consulate in Oran, but a large crowd of angry *Harkis*, who had gone to witness his arrival, turned on the arriving Algerian passengers, refusing to let them leave the airport.

After almost two hours in a tense atmosphere recalling implicitly that the groups had been on opposing sides in the Algerian war, the *Harkis* let a few women and children through but kept back all the men.

A French military aircraft is now supposed to fly to Oran to pick up the boy.

M. Poniatowski, the Minister of the Interior, flew to Nîmes today to consult the prefect of the Gard department, where the young *Harkis* live in a camp in which they keep their Algerian hostages.

The father of the boy kept in Algeria has filed legal proceedings to obtain his release. He said that the boy had been virtually kidnapped by his Algerian relations, with the connivance of the police who

allowed only the mother to return to France.

The Algerian authorities had maintained that the boy's papers were not in order as he was registered only on his mother's passport. They requested his father to send a signed authorization for the boy to leave.

[In Algiers, the Algeria Press Service news agency, quoting a "reliable source", said the authorities had just received documents giving paternal permission for the boy to leave the country.]

The incident coincided with a decision by the French Cabinet yesterday to resolve the problem of integrating the 220,000 former *Harkis* and their dependants (one third of whom are of school age) fully into French society.

The isolated camps, such as the one at St Maurice-Ardoise where the Algerian workers are being held and in which the Muslim families have been living permanently, are to be closed by September next year. Some 140m francs (£15m) are to be spent on a programme to help local authorities to house them and train them for jobs.

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## Shell oil depot in Lorraine burnt out by arsonists

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Aug 7

Arsonists today set fire to the oil depot of Shell (France) at Woippy, a suburb of Metz, according to M. Gaston Pontal, Prefect of Lorraine. The fire raged all day, burning 1,500,000 gallons of fuel and causing losses estimated at more than £500,000.

In a telephone call to a local newspaper, a self-styled Workers' Direct Action Committee claimed responsibility for today's fire and for one at a petrol depot near by at Thionville on Tuesday. The caller claimed that the group received aid from Germany and said that more attacks would be made.

As firemen from West Germany and from Paris, bringing special fire-fighting equipment, converged on Metz this afternoon, investigators said they had found a man-sized entry hole cut in the fence surrounding the depot. Three railwaymen, who were near

the scene when the fire broke out early today, reported hearing small explosions and seeing figures fleeing in the darkness.

Despite the efforts of some 500 firemen, all the containers were destroyed. Flames leapt at times 600ft into the air.

The French Army decided from today to guard all petrol depots in the Lorraine region to prevent any further arson attempts.

At least three persons were killed and more than 30 injured, three of them seriously, when an explosives factory in Brittany blew up today, possibly owing to the stormy, intensely hot weather in the region.

The French National Explosives Company, owners of the plant, said that heavy charges of static electricity produced in the atmosphere may have caused the explosion near Châteaulin. Shops and homes were damaged in a wide radius around the factory.

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A soldier outside the military command headquarters in Oporto kicking a dog back into line during a pro-Communist demonstration in the northern Portuguese city.

## New Lisbon Government to be sworn in today

From Jose Shercliff Lisbon, Aug 7

Portugal's new Government will be sworn in by President Costa Gomes at noon tomorrow, General Goncalves, the Prime Minister, said today.

Although it is understood that the Prime Minister, who has been under attack recently, will continue in his post, the other members of the Government have not yet been officially announced. General Goncalves told the newspaper *O Seculo* after prolonged consultations last night at the presidential palace. We already have a Government.

It is still not known whether General Otelo de Carvalho, commander of Copcon, the internal security force, has consented to form a team with Professor Teixeira Ribeiro as the two vice-presidents to work under General Goncalves. General Carvalho is known to have opposed this and to have suggested that he would act as Deputy Prime Minister with General Goncalves as President.

The ministers of the former Goncalves Government, who continued in office until his new Administration was formed, include Major Arnau Metelo, the Minister of Internal Administration, who is believed to have retained his post.

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## Spanish officers to be tried for sedition

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Aug 7

All nine Spanish Army officers arrested last month and held incommunicado since then face court martial on charges of sedition, it was learnt in Madrid today.

According to sources close to the officers' lawyers they will be tried under Article 303 of the military code which cites "conspiring for the crime of sedition". Sentences for offences under this article would range from six months to six years' imprisonment. A special military judge has been investigating the charges for a week.

The eight captains and a major come from different units in the First Military Region which covers Madrid and a large section of central Spain.

Apart from announcing the arrests, the military have kept silent about the affair. It is said that the officers belong to a loosely knit and unofficial organization called the Democratic Military Union, which meets to discuss current affairs.

They are alleged to have made contacts with left-wing Portuguese officers and discussed the role of the military in the revolution there, a sensitive subject in Spain.

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"Grapes cultivated in the famous Charente vineyards... Years of maturing in oak casks from the Limousin forest... Skills handed down for generations blending the finest cognacs... Over 200 years of craftsmanship, tradition, and good taste."

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## 10-year strategy for area health service

By Arthur Osman Birmingham

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## OVERSEAS

# Backtracking by Americans over Hawk missile gives Jordan chance to weigh up Soviet rival

From Paul Martin  
Amman, Aug 7

No matter where it comes from, Jordan is determined to acquire an integrated air defence system to protect its airspace. Threats by King Hussein that he would even turn to the Soviet Union if the Americans let him down are backed by his financier, Saudi Arabia.

The backtracking by the United States on the Hawk missile deal has been described by King Hussein and Mr. Zeid Rifai, the Prime Minister, as a major "political embarrassment" for Jordan. Under the original deal Jordan was to have received 14 batteries of improved Hawk missiles, four batteries of Vulcan radar directed guns, and a quantity of Redeye shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles for the infantry. The deal, costing \$350m (£170m), was to have been in the form of a direct arms sale with Saudi Arabia providing the money.

"The number of batteries we want, 14, is the number recommended by the American experts sent here to study our needs," Mr. Rifai told me. "Jordan's decision to refuse the watered-down deal of only six Hawk batteries, eventually offered after a compromise between the State Department and Congress, was the right decision. We believe we will not have any difficulty in acquiring any system from any source."

The Syrians, anxious to strengthen their defences along the Jordanian borders, are known to be eager to receive the Hawk.

The French have the Hawk and there is another excellent, the French-German Roland for a low to medium range cover.

The Russian Sam 6, an advanced model of the Sam range transported on a tank chassis, could be ideal for Jordan's needs, he said. Asked whether the Syrians had offered to act as go-betweens with the Russians for the supply of Sam 6 or other air defence equipment, he replied: "We believe we will not have any difficulty in acquiring any system from any source."

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the chief military and economic installations.

"We do not want Israel planes to have the freedom to fly over Jordan," Mr. Rifai said. "In the 1973 war they used to come over Jordan to attack targets in Syria. Since then there have been continuous incursions. The fact is that Israel does not want us to have an air defence system."

The Jordanians maintain that the improved Hawk system is so suited to their defence needs that it would be hard to find a substitute in the West. "The trouble is that all air defence systems do not give you one missile that gives you the complete cover you need," Mr. Rifai said. "For instance, I am not aware of any missile produced in Britain that would give the same cover as the Hawk."

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The Russian Sam 6, an advanced model of the Sam range transported on a tank chassis, could be ideal for Jordan's needs, he said. Asked whether the Syrians had offered to act as go-betweens with the Russians for the supply of Sam 6 or other air defence equipment, he replied: "We believe we will not have any difficulty in acquiring any system from any source."

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Jordan to opt for the Sam 6.

In military terms it makes sense since the defence of the skies over the shared front could be brought under a single command more easily.

However, King Hussein and his advisers are aware of the danger of too much talk about turning to Moscow. After all, officials point out, it was King Hussein's stout-hearted anti-communist stand over the past two decades that raised his stock in the West so high.

"The King realizes very well that Jordan has always got away with giving itself an inflated sense of importance on the international scene," one Western observer noted. "He may be in trouble with Congress over the Hawks, but he is still up in the big league when he goes to Washington."

"Should he turn to Russia he knows that he is well down the line in Moscow's list of Arab priorities. Also, he then becomes susceptible to Soviet pressures—and that's a high price to pay."

But well-informed American sources maintain that despite this, the King should not be taken aback by his determination to get the air defence system he wants. "It is no longer a question of just defending Jordan's air space," one American source said. "It is a question of defending Jordan's image inside and outside the Arab world."

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Mr Alger Hiss, aged 71 (left), being sworn in as a member of the Massachusetts Bar in Boston yesterday, 23 years after his perjury conviction in the "Pumpkin Papers" spy case.

## Three-party government breaks up in Angola

Luanda, Aug 7.—The National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) today withdrew from the three-party transitional Government under Portuguese rule.

Portugal sends back General Silva Cardoso, the High Commissioner who has acted as a buffer between the warring factions in Angola.

General Cardoso was recalled to Portugal last week ostensibly for health reasons. But Army sources said he was going to be replaced by a man better disposed towards the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the Front's long-standing rival and political ally, which has military control in Luanda.

The third group in the Government, the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola, has also demanded General Cardoso's return.

The Front has surrounded the capital with a widespread military net, taking strategic towns on all sides of the city. It has vowed to drive the MPLA out of Luanda.

Although tension has eased in Luanda, shooting broke out during the night at the sixteenth-century Sao Pedro da Barra Fort, overlooking the harbour, which is held by the Front's troops.

Sailors in the harbour area said it was likely the Front fired at dockers trying to unload two ships carrying weapons for the MPLA.

## Three accused in Athens torture trial ill with food poisoning

From Mario Modiano  
Athens, Aug 7

Three key defendants in the court martial of 31 Army officers and men charged with torturing political prisoners, were taken ill with food poisoning overnight, while in jail. The military tribunal, however, decided today that the trial should proceed in view of "strong suspicions" that their illness had been self-inflicted.

The prosecutor said that Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Theodoropoulos (who has been reduced to the ranks) and Major Anastasios Spanos, both former directors of the notorious "special interrogation section" of the military police during the dictatorship, as well as Lieutenant Colonel Petros Goros, former commander of Boyati military prison, had been taken ill last night after eating "home-made food brought by relatives."

Defence counsel sought a postponement, but the five military judges ordered the trial to proceed, upholding the argument of the prosecution that the poisoning had "probably been deliberate" in order to secure a postponement.

The other 28 defendants—11 officers and 17 privates—looked defiant as they sat in the dock. Those who had been cashiered seemed uncomfortable in dark suits, white shirts and ties.

Nine were in uniform. All but two pleaded not guilty to charges of abuse of authority and causing bodily injuries.

Four defendants, former privates whose names had been

linked with accounts of torture during the dictatorship, submitted "profound sympathy and appreciation" for their victims and begging their forgiveness for actions that transpired under "foot" the elementary human rights.

Two other defendants, who have since left the Army, told the court that they had joined the police force.

Tension was high in the heavily guarded courtroom. Some of the most notable members of the anti-junta resistance were there to testify about the treatment they had received from this service which had been entrusted with the security of the dictatorship.

Mrs. Virginia Tsouderis, a member of Parliament, who had been detained at the special section, told me: "Just to know that these monsters are under the same roof, gives me the creeps."

Other witnesses included Lady Fleming, Mr. Alexandros Panagoulis, who had been tortured during five years in jail after an attempt on the life of Mr. Papadopoulos; and Major Spyros Moustakidis, who was left paralysed on the right side and speechless by one blow.

At one point, during recess, retired Wing Commander Anastasios Mitis, who is also a member of Parliament, came face to face with Major Nikolaos Hatzizisis, the man he holds responsible for the 111 days of torture while he was interrogated.

The defendant greeted him broadly. Mr. Mitis shouted: "I am not dead. And you did not

extract a single word out of me." The prisoner, shouted back: "Drop the act."

The first witness for the prosecution was Mr. Christodoulos Stratos, the Minister of Public Works. He had been detained by the military police in June, 1973, in connection with the naval mutiny.

The minister said he had not been seriously molested during detention, but had been subjected to psychological violence.

"I was held in a windowless cell and given three glasses of water a day in mid-summer. There was no bed and I was allowed three visits to the toilet daily."

The court martial adjourned for Monday to enable the trial of the 21 officers accused of conspiring to revolt against the present Government last February, to be concluded.

In the trial of the Junta leaders at Korydallos prison, Captain Nikolaos Pappas, who was commander of the destroyer Velos had defected to Italy during the naval mutiny, was giving evidence today. He told the court that one of the defendants had told him that he had produced to the Junta "10 sheets of 300 politicians in Constitution Square (in Athens)."

There was a noisy incident in court when retired General George Koumanakos said that the defendants had "lived in luxurious villas, almost palaces, which cost millions to furnish."

There was an uproar from the dock and cries of "liar." General Ioannidis shouted: "I do not even have a shack."

## Muzorewa hope to avert armed struggle

By David Spenser  
Diplomatic Correspondent

The site for constitutional discussions on Rhodesia was the main topic at a meeting yesterday between Bishop Muzorewa, the president of the African National Council, and Mr. Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary.

A joint statement issued later said it had been agreed that there was an urgent need to find means of getting discussions started about constitutional change in Rhodesia to avert the danger of a drift towards intensified armed struggle, and that the objective was to bring about a constitutional conference.

Before returning to Blantyre last night, Bishop Muzorewa said he was encouraged by the helpful attitude of the British Government.

Asked where the discussions with the Smith regime might be held, he said he wanted to wait until arrangements were settled. "All I can say is we are still insisting we meet outside Rhodesia."

Accordingly, the British role in the discussions over the past two days has been to try to help the ANC leadership to find a way round this difficulty. A number of places have been mentioned, including Pretoria. Another possibility which might meet both African demands and Mr. Smith's position, would be the Victoria Falls.

Bishop Muzorewa said that they would think about Pretoria on their return flight, but no decisions had been made on any site.

Trying to arrange a constitutional conference would be seen by all the "revolutionaries" as cowardice, the bishop went on. "But those of us who know the realities of the situation want as much as possible to avoid bloodshed, which would be very serious on both sides."

As to whether it was possible to hold a conference, they had to wait and see.

He added that they expected to meet Mr. Smith's intentions in the next few days. The British Government is anxious to get talks started, because unless progress on the constitutional problem is made, talk of fighting is bound to intensify.

Mr. Callaghan's hope is that a constitutional conference will be seen by all the parties concerned as the first priority, and that the drift to armed struggle as the joint statement put it, can be averted.

Bishop Muzorewa said progress was urgent because of the suffering of the people in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). People were being tortured and killed by Mr. Smith's security forces, he added, and a settlement was urgent to put an end to all this.

Our Lusaka Correspondent writes: Mr. Bernard Fourie, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in South Africa, has made two secret visits to Lusaka within the last few days to discuss the Rhodesian constitutional stalemate.

Reliable sources confirmed the visits in Lusaka today but senior government officials declined to comment.

It is known to whom Mr. Fourie met on his last visit, on July 21, but this visit did coincide with the arrival from Mozambique of the four Rhodesian African nationalist leaders, Bishop Muzorewa, Mr. James Chikere, Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mupfema.

Reliable sources did confirm today that on his previous visit in June Mr. Fourie had had talks with President Kaunda of Zambia. Both Zambia and South Africa are known to be concerned about the apparent stalemate in moves to settle the Rhodesian problem.

The other settlement, page 12

## Israel finds out how to get across minefields

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, Aug 7

Brigadier Yitzhak Ben Dov, Israel's Chief Engineering Officer, said on Sunday that the Israel defence forces had developed and manufactured new techniques and equipment for bridging and breaching since the war of 1973.

In a press conference here, he said the Israelis had had to become self-reliant because nothing much had been done in the West about bridging minefields. Moreover, the United States halted selling Israel engineering equipment designed specially for offensive action.

"You can have a tank for attack and defence," he explained, "but a bridging tank could not possibly be used for defence."

Furthermore, the United States did not always have what Israel needed. The Israelis were still using American mines of 1948 and 1952 vintage, "not because they would not give us modern minefields because the United States has not developed modern mines. They are working on it now."

Among Israel's new techniques were systems for breaching minefields. Up to the 1973 war, the brigadier said, breaching minefields was done "by hand by soldiers with Bangalore torpedoes and things like that."

Sappers now operated either from a distance or from safe cover. He refused to disclose details, but said he was not allowing the United States to see Israel's engineering equipment.

Brigadier Ben Dov said Israel's engineering equipment was on the whole on an equal level with that supplied by the Soviet Union to Egypt. "Our problem is quantity, not quality," he observed.

He said the Israelis had also developed "instant fortifications." These were ready-made bunkers for eight machine-gun positions or other prefabricated defences, to be towed by tank or armoured personnel carrier to newly captured positions. They could be installed within an hour to protect Israeli soldiers against expected enemy shelling.

Expelled referee shoots himself

Montevideo, Aug 7.—Señor José Gualarte, who had been expelled from the Uruguayan football referees' association, shot himself today after being accused of trying to bribe a colleague. He was reported to be in a serious condition in hospital.—Reuter.

Arabs reject sharing of Abraham's mosque

From Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, Aug 7

Arab leaders in the West Bank are planning to seek support from Muslim authorities throughout the world for their protest against an Israel Government decision to reserve parts of the Mosque of Abraham in Hebron exclusively for Jews.

The Arab leaders allege that this will effectively remove the mosque into a synagogue.

The move was denounced at a special meeting by the Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem which had received a report from Sheikh Muhammad Ali Jaabari, the mayor of Hebron.

The Supreme Council said it rejected the new arrangements and insisted that the Tomb of the Patriarchs was "a Muslim mosque in its entirety". It instructed all Muslim preachers to devote their Friday sermons to denunciations of the change.

[Associated Press reports from Amman that Mr. Zeid Rifai, the Prime Minister of Jordan, said today that Jordan

## 'Collaborator's' house blown up in Lebanon

Beirut, Aug 7.—An Israeli force crossed into a southern Lebanese village early today and kidnapped a man after blowing up his house, a Lebanese military spokesman said.

An advanced position of the Lebanese Army also came under attack from the Israeli side but without casualties being inflicted.

The village was Hanin, about half a mile from the Israel border, the spokesman said. The Israelis blew up the house of Mr. Jalal al-Tawad, and took him away. At the same time, two rocket-propelled grenade shells as well as machine gun and other explosive charges were fired at a Lebanese Army advanced position from the occupied territory.

The fire was returned and the exchange lasted for 20 minutes.

Arab journalists in South Lebanon reported that another Israeli force crossed into the

village of Talussa, three miles inside the border, just before midnight on a search-and-destroy mission. Five houses were fired on and two people detained.

One was the mayor of the village and after three hours of searching he was released. Israeli artillery bombarded the vicinity of the village to cover the withdrawal of their force, the spokesman said.

Tel Aviv: The raids were described by the Israelis as "combining operations for terrorists". The house blown up was that of a known guerrilla collaborator.

The village of Talussa, 11 miles to the northeast of Hanin was also searched. No Israeli casualties were reported and no resistance was met from inside the raided villages, the military command said.























## Residential property

### Something for lovers of the odd

It is inevitable that houses with a long history will still have elements of different styles of architecture. Few remain the same throughout their life. What is rarer is for an old house to be virtually free from other old buildings in modern times, yet something close to the way it happened in the case of Bank Farm, in the village of Bank Farm, near Princes Risborough. Originally it was probably an Elizabethan farmhouse, but it now incorporates various features from Park House, Worcestershire, which itself had much of the fabric of Elmley Castle nearby, destroyed in Jacobean times. The main addition is the old great hall from Ashted Manor, Buckinghamshire, which now forms the main sitting room. It is thought to date from 1450 and is 28ft long and 20ft wide, with a stone-flagged floor, a hammer-beam roof. Apart from the main hall, there are three other reception rooms and four bedrooms, making a house that is particularly large for its age. It has a garden of about an acre and a third and is for sale through Jackson-Stops and Staff at £13,500.

For those who like real oddities an interesting property is The Water Tower, in Tainters Hill, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. It was built in the second half of the eighteenth century as a windmill. In 1854 it was converted to steam power and 30 years later into a water tower with a tank holding 26,000 gallons. It remained a water tower until about 12 years ago. Conversion into a private residence was completed last year. A ground-floor extension provides a large sitting room of normal shape and a dining room, but all the remaining rooms are circular allowing for the staircase. There are three bedrooms and at the top, or fifth, floor there is a fine circular studio, which might be used as a fourth bedroom, with an observation platform. Offers of about £40,000 are being asked through Edwards, Bigwood and Bewley, of Birmingham. The property has received an Architectural Heritage Award.

A lot of house for the money is provided by Hebbury Manor, at Elham, near Canterbury, an imposing country house being offered at about £57,500, through Funnell, of Canterbury, and Ashenden, of Canterbury. It was built in 1916 by a family that owned a local colliery. It was originally a large house of an estate of more than 3,000 acres, but the farmland was sold in 1953. Accommodation includes a main reception room, a billiard room, a study, and six main bedrooms. It is being sold with 43 acres.



The Water Tower at Tainters Hill, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

A good mixture of old and modern is Nore, near Haslemere, Surrey, the former home of Mr. Dirk Bogarde, the actor, who now lives in the South of France. Parts of the house are believed to go back to the twelfth century. One feature is a hall with four large pillars and a stone-flagged floor. The house has a large garden and a swimming pool. It is for sale at £100,000 through Mann and Co. of Guildford.

Another interesting building is St. Clare's Hall, in St. Oyston, Essex, a farmhouse dating from the fourteenth century with two cross wings added in the sixteenth century. It is a large house with a moat. Construction is mainly in oak framing and plaster with some areas of brick. There are five reception rooms, a great hall, and seven bedrooms. Offers of about £60,000 are being asked for the house with about an acre of garden. Further land is available if required. The agents are Knight, Frank and Rudley, of London and Stanford and Son, of Colchester.

Good Georgian properties make attractive homes and one such is Haydon House, at East Cholden, near Andover, Hampshire. Built about 1825, it has a large garden and a swimming pool. It is for sale at £100,000 through Mann and Co. of Guildford.

Various large outbuildings could be used for additional but separate accommodation.

**FOX & SONS**  
SALLY POINT, HAMBLE  
An Outstanding Modern House with river frontage and direct access to the river. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, swimming pool, tennis court, and extensive grounds. Fully equipped kitchen, playroom, and sun room. Warm air for sale by private treaty.  
20-24 London Road, Southampton. Tel: 0703 225555

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A luxury block of architect designed flats within a few minutes of the town. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, swimming pool, tennis court, and extensive grounds. Fully equipped kitchen, playroom, and sun room. Warm air for sale by private treaty.  
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FAMOUS HIGHLAND FISHING HOTEL WITH GREAT POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT  
Lounge, dining room, two bars, 15 bedrooms, proprietor's accommodation. Extensive grounds, swimming pool, tennis court, and extensive grounds. Fully equipped kitchen, playroom, and sun room. Warm air for sale by private treaty.  
750 ACRES APPROXIMATELY  
Outstanding fishing on four lochs  
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EXCELLENT SPORTING ESTATE  
Comfortable Lodge. Two Cottages.  
Deer Stalking (15 Stag, 30 Hinds)  
Grouse Shooting (115 brace)  
Loch and River Fishing  
10,000 ACRES APPROXIMATELY  
£165,000  
Sole Selling Agents:  
**JOHN CLEGG & COMPANY**  
27 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2BW. Tel: 031-229 8800.

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS/MAYFIELD**  
In lovely position facing south, old Sussex country house, centre portion for sale, 991 year lease, very low outgoings. 7 rooms of various appeal and size plus k. & b. Inglewood, old barns, small wine cellar, tiled floor, large loft with window. Garage. 21 acres well kept gardens to share. Regret no dogs.  
Offers on £18,500 for quick sale.  
Possession September.  
Rotherfield (0892-85) 2322 Sat, Sunday and evenings.

**ISLE OF WIGHT**  
COASTAL PROPERTIES  
AUCTION SEPTEMBER  
SUPERB LUXURY HOUSE at Yarmouth with magnificent views.  
NEW CHARACTER RESIDENCE at Shanklin, natural stone walls, unique design.  
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## The Times

### Special Reports.

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## How the temporary worker could help save British industry

As the recession bites deeper and unemployment figures continue to spiral, threats of looming labour shortages in certain areas of British industry are unlikely to remain much credibility.

But in recent months a growing band of economists and consultants has been won over to the argument that when the long awaited turnaround in world trade finally makes itself felt Britain may well find itself in no position to take advantage.

The thinking is that different sections of the labour force are so inflexible or so firmly entrenched in specific occupational categories that new and sudden industrial or business opportunities could sink without trace before even an appropriate workforce can be mustered.

The argument has not been lost on Whitehall as the Government's heavy programme of retraining schemes and its plans for encouraging necessary shifts in worker population clearly indicate.

Nevertheless, the economic plan for more flexibility is unlikely to be answered without much bitter and protracted argument at each stage of negotiation.

To achieve the sort of flexibility demanded by Britain's new economic circumstances would seem to require a complete change of attitudes

towards working life by individuals, unions and employers.

Despite the increasing militancy of unions and the cynicism this has created in management circles, the great majority of employees presumably still see security, constancy and a general sense of belonging as among the most important criteria for any occupation.

And it is difficult to equate these traditional employment requisites with the futuristic picture of a seemingly shifting, rootless, working population.

However, one surprisingly large group of British employees well apparently have no great difficulties in coming to terms with the promised working environment. They are the country's many thousands of temporary workers who for a wide variety of reasons find themselves in a succession of short-term jobs as opposed to the traditional concept of "livelihood" occupations.

And it is perhaps partly this variety of reasons that provides prospects for more flexibility in the working environment that the Employment Service Agency is currently carrying out a full-scale investigation into all aspects of temporary work.

National Opinion Polls is this year conducting four major surveys on behalf of

the ESA the results of which are hoped to provide a balanced picture of the temporary labour market.

But a pilot survey carried out by the group last year—probably the first real attempt to chart and quantify the temporary labour scene—has already thrown up some surprising statistics.

The survey recorded recently in the Department of Employment's Gazette only intended to give useful indications rather than definitive answers about temporary work. But it clearly shows that short-term work represents a significant group in the labour market; perhaps a much larger group than was previously thought.

In a sample of under 2,000, some 8 per cent of employees regarded their current jobs as temporary while a further 2 per cent had at some time conceived their present jobs to be on a short-term basis.

A further 15 per cent of the sample in employment had taken jobs on a temporary basis within the previous five years.

The pilot survey also showed that two-fifths of temporary assignments had lasted for less than three months with over two-thirds of them lasting under a year.

On this basis temporary assignments were seen as accounting for a substantial proportion of job engage-

ments—amounting, perhaps to over two million each year.

Temporary work was not surprisingly twice as frequently found among married women as among men or even single women and made a disproportionately large contribution to the labour force in the service sector and distributive trades.

The major reasons for taking temporary work given by respondents were extra money (22 per cent) convenience (30 per cent) because of the children (14 per cent), while a further 6 per cent admitted theirs was a case of "taking what was available".

The main disadvantages of temporary assignments were seen to be insecurity and this was especially so among men, younger and better-educated respondents.

Even so, not only does the survey make it abundantly clear that temporary opportunities are widely available but that the numbers of individuals prepared to forego the security of long-term employment for quicker earning ability and convenience is continuing to grow. These findings at least must provide some encouragement for the advocates of greater flexibility in industry.

Richard Allen

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## INDIAN AUTOCRACY

When Mrs Gandhi issued the order for a summer session of parliament the severe prohibitions of the state of emergency seemed somewhat mitigated. The authority of parliament was still admitted so why should there be any fear out the ending of democracy in India? Was it not plain that these measures were temporary and in any case strictly within the constitution? It could be suggested that Mrs Gandhi was concerned only in her own power when her purpose was simply to save India from the impending chaos. Many Indians deeply concerned of poverty and suffering of the masses in their country thought it was unwise to have to condemn the government for its emergency measures for its results.

The performance of this emergency session has done little to buoy up such hopes. From any concern with the national interest, the legislation tried through has had no effect but the shoring up of the power of Mrs Gandhi and her Congress Party supporters. The urgent Bill was retroactive amending the law on election procedures so that Mrs Gandhi's sons, on which she has been convicted by the Allahabad court and which were

subject to appeal before the Supreme Court, would not now be offences against electoral law. So much for the dignity of India's independent judiciary. Yesterday this hurried cancellation of the appeal before that court was followed by further Bill removing from legal challenge any future election of the vice-president, the prime minister and the Speaker.

Such measures have neither justification nor urgency. By introducing them Mrs Gandhi is breaching her overwhelming majority in the Indian Parliament to override the country's laws even though she must be aware—from the election results in Gujarat, if from no other evidence—that her party has lost much of the support that it won in the 1973 election and that her own leadership, so liberally devalued in the Gujarat campaign, evokes much less public response. Nor can the plea that she is abiding by the constitution seem reassuring when she shows herself so ready to use her parliamentary majority to knock the constitution this way and that for party convenience.

The current parliamentary session thus contradicts the defence originally made of the Government's action when introducing the state of emergency. Those who charge Mrs Gandhi

with identifying her own power with the wellbeing of the country will see every step she has taken as pointing in that direction. Even if that were too imprecise an explanation of Mrs Gandhi's motives, what is no less dangerous is the pressure that will gradually accumulate to prolong the state of emergency and the legislation associated with it for the securing of continued power.

No one can now foresee an end to the emergency if it means the reversal of the measures that have given the Congress Party its safe defence against any opposition. To rescind anything will become impossible unless and until the Congress Party's overwhelming popularity in the country and Mrs Gandhi's own unquestioned dominance is beyond doubt. Nothing that has been done thus far by the government or by Mrs Gandhi herself promises to bring about such a public response. India therefore seems locked in to one-party rule and one-woman leadership until such time as the Congress Party itself—always, in a sense, both government and opposition combined in India—finds among its members those who insist that the test of a general election must be undertaken whether or not the party is assured of power in the outcome.

## R WILSON, MR BENN AND THE OMBUDSMAN

article in *The Times* on Monday gave currency to a suggestion that certain Cabinet papers had been withheld from the two parties to the Court Line. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Mr Benn, and the Department of Trade and Industry, Mr Wilson, in order to protect the Prime Minister's questions about his part in the affair. On Wednesday the Prime Minister made a statement in the House of Commons claiming how the documents were withheld. They were withheld in conformity with the established rule of secrecy surrounding Cabinet papers, and according to the express provisions of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967, the Act which governs the operation of the office. The Prime Minister said that the exclusion of that of documents from inspection by the Parliamentary Commissioner was clearly understood when the Act was passed and was not an innovation. He also showed that in the interpretation of that provision in the case of the Court Line inquiry differed from the interpretation given and accepted by the Commons when the legislation was being debated in the House. The Prime Minister's statement contradicted the basis of our report, and we fully accept correction.

he question of the Cabinet papers did not, quite rightly, in the MPs who spoke in the

debate later that afternoon. The issue before them was a simple one: the Parliamentary Commissioner had concluded that the assurance given by the Government through the mouth of Mr Benn in June, 1974, concerning Court Line's holiday operations went further than the circumstances warranted, and were therefore misleading. ("I have fully accepted that the Government felt honestly and genuinely confident about Court Line's prospects for the test of the 1974 holiday season. But it was not, and could not have been, on the information, an unqualified confidence.") The Department of Trade and Industry had made a similar finding. Mr Benn and his colleagues had rejected that finding. Were they right to do so or were they wrong?

Mr Benn made an effective speech of self-justification, but his arguments did not dispose of the primary point made against him. On June 26, 1974, the Government was not in a position to give an unqualified assurance about the holiday bookings. Nor did the need to bolster confidence in a concern which it was their intention to rescue justify the public expression of exaggerated confidence. Great weight is attached to the deliberate words of Ministers in these matters. They must be trustworthy, and they will not be trustworthy if they go farther than their knowledge

warrants, however good their intentions.

Ministers are not as good at taking their medicine from the Ombudsman as are civil servants (who are granted anonymity and have little option but to swallow the dose). Lord George-Brown, when he was Foreign Secretary, choked noisily over the Ombudsman's criticisms of his, and his department's refusal to pay compensation to some of the victims of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, though he did consent to have compensation paid. It would have become Mr Benn much better to have accepted with a good grace that in this narrow but important matter of judgment he erred as the two separate reports found him to have erred. It would still have been open to him, by way of revenge, to refer to the Commons select committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner the question whether in this case the commissioner had not exceeded his powers. He is charged to investigate allegations of maladministration and to make findings on that alone. He is expressly debarred from questioning the merits of a decision taken without maladministration. On the merits of Mr Benn's decision not to qualify his public statements about Court Line the Parliamentary Commissioner is surely right. But where was the element of maladministration?

## ED COTTAGES IN KNOTS

Government's consultative attempt on the abolition of tied houses in agriculture should be clear proof of the difficulty of the task. The aim is enshrined in the Labour Party manifesto as a desirable objective. The very notion of a dwelling conflicts with temporary thinking on the basis of tenure, a powerful system in agriculture has maintained over a period of years, and in a few cases there has been humiliation and ship. But these are not the factors that need to be considered. The arrangement has been set up and continued for so long because it meets an obvious demand: that of accommodation for many agricultural workers close to the farm on which they are employed. But workers are not the only who need a home on the land. They account in no more than one tenth of the tenants, but the arrangement is wisely not extending their reform and the agricultural tied house. The justification for using miners' cottages red yesterday by Mr Ernest Strong, Parliamentary Under

Secretary for Environment—"the letting of National Coal Board properties is arranged by committees which include representatives of the employees' unions"—must have a place on any short list for the non-squatter of the year. But there are more valid arguments for caution. Circumstances vary so much that it would be very hard to devise a general measure with any chance of giving satisfaction, and it is only in rural areas where there is a marked shortage of accommodation in general that the system has given rise to much protest.

With the more widespread ownership of private cars the number of farm workers who need to live as close as all that are fewer these days. The document points out that only one in two full-time agricultural workers now lives in tied cottages; but these are mostly in the more flourishing part of the industry and it would simply not be realistic just to give every occupant of an agricultural tied cottage full security of tenure even though that would be the most obvious means of sweeping away the system. What is suggested is to bring this form of occupation within the scope of the Rent Acts,

which is not necessarily the same thing. The Acts apply only to those paying rent above a certain level, a provision which the document suggests would have to be amended. Another provision enables the landlord to obtain possession of his property to house a new employee. So something would have to be done about this provision too if the application of the Rent Acts were to provide the answer.

The document is somewhat imprecise on this point—not necessarily a fault in a consultative paper—but the authors seem to envisage not granting absolute security on the local authority to rehouse those removed under this provision. That may be as good a compromise as can be found, provided that the obligation can in practice be limited to those who are genuinely long-term farm workers. But it is undeniable that this would be an extension of bureaucracy which would miss the real point, that it is only where there is a shortage of accommodation that there is much of a problem. Any reform that does not lead to more accommodation will be unsuccessful, and once there is more accommodation the reform of tenure becomes less urgent.

## nies and the GLC

How ironic that George Hutchinson, whose contacts with the higher echelons of the Conservative Party are numerous and well known, should be able to tell us (July 24) that a Tory pledge to dismantle the GLC would probably be "a tens of thousands of votes" to the party. It is, after all, only years since the Conservatives led the GLC precisely for that reason, and so and Labour's "reason" (under the old Labour) or so they hoped—of 12 years is a long time in politics.

Mr Candler, 67 Northumberland Road, Barnet, London, N4 3JH.

class degrees

Professor Joel Hurstfield

the publication is Monday's

of the names of those who

obtained first class degrees at British universities will, no doubt, give pleasure to the successful candidates, their friends and relatives. But when the glow of satisfaction has faded there remain fundamental questions about examination which have not yet been fully resolved.

It is still assumed by some who should know better that the award of a "first" establishes or confirms certain basic qualities of mind quite different from the hot politeness of "seconds" and "thirds". For their sake, and to set the record straight, it should be said that, where degrees are examined alone, traditional lines, the "first" represents performance during a given week or two in the summer and may produce in some candidates quite unrepresentative results. Although an increasing number of universities are including work done in the course of the year or years in their assessment process, the traditional line in a vast number of cases the examination—the three-hour paper—dominates the results.

At the time of the examination a candidate may be suffering from

the seasonal hay fever or physical or nervous strain (plus, for women candidates the rarely mentioned stress that if an examination lasts a week, in four is working in somewhat unfavourable conditions), but none of this can be taken into account in examinations.

For these and other reasons I have, over the years, come increasingly to believe that the American system of the "transcript", which records on one sheet the quality of a candidate's work during his years as an undergraduate, offers a more just and humane evaluation of his ability and performance.

There is so much mystique as well as mystery attached to degree examinations that it is right that parents, members of the public and appointing bodies should be aware that the class entered on a candidate's degree certificate is not the only, or the most important, thing that is said about the quality of his

JOEL HURSTFIELD,

7 Glenilla Road,

Hampstead, NW3.

July 30.

## Appointments to benefices

From Prebendary Henry Cooper  
Sir, May I answer the letter of Mr John Cordle, MP, and others of August 4? Appointments to benefices have been under debate for many years with one side wishing the total abolition of patronage and the other wishing, with modification, its preservation. Neither side has as yet commanded a sufficient majority in the General Synod and to meet that situation my working party proposed a mixed system with patronage continuing in some parishes where it works well, and in others, where it does not, a new system in which the parish or patron decided it.

We proposed to abolish patronage altogether as real property but to give to registered patrons a continuing right of appointment, but where patronage is no longer desired by parish or patron to introduce a panel of three selectors: the bishop (or his representative); one representative of the parish and another, also elected by the parish, representing the wider Church.

Mr Cordle thinks this unfair and especially because when once a change of system is made it becomes irreversible. But does he think it would be fair or practicable to change backwards and forwards at intervals? He is also wrong in thinking that there would have to be an annual decision.

He and his friends seek to arouse public opinion against a Measure, the draft of which is not yet published. When it is it will no doubt be seen to follow fairly closely the lines of our report, but after it comes the General Synod (perhaps in July, 1976) it will come again for its revision stage and then be referred to the dioceses (who may in turn refer it to their deaneries and parishes—and time will be given for the more fully approved Synod. Nor will it go to Parliament and it is highly probable that it will be then be greatly modified.

Would it not be wiser for Mr Cordle and his friends to take their fences when they reach them? And is it not a pity that some of their colleagues should already have signed an Early Day motion to the effect that it would be inopportune to receive any proposal which would affect lay patronage? The Measure as proposed would in fact very greatly reduce lay patronage and appointments beyond the very limited number of lay patrons at present so privileged.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY COOPER, Chairman of the General Synod's Working Party on Appointments to benefices.  
St George's, Bloomsbury, Rectory, 6 Gower Street, WC1, August 6.

## Squatters and the law

From Mr Robert Hazell  
Sir, One hesitates to disagree with a judge from the Court of Appeal, but Sir Eric Sachs' remarks about the law of conspiracy to trespass (August 1) first gave me the impression that I had been talking to a man who was not a lawyer. He is, of course, but he is also a judge. In proposing a conspiracy to trespass as a suitable weapon to be used against squatters Sir Eric asserted that this part of the law had been elementary and clear for the past 50 years or more; but it was not in fact until the case of *Smith & Hogan* in 1963 that it was decided that conspiracy to trespass was an offence at all.

Smith & Hogan, in the 1969 edition of their widely-respected textbook on Criminal Law, stated boldly that it was not; and in *Kamara* itself the point of law certified by the Court of Appeal for decision by the House of Lords was precisely this question, namely "whether an agreement to commit a trespass can be an indictable conspiracy and, if so, in what circumstances".

Their Lordships held that an agreement to trespass is criminal where it involves either invasion of the public domain, or the infliction of more than nominal damage. Whether this leaves the law of conspiracy to trespass in any more satisfactory state than the remainder of the law of conspiracy, as Sir Eric suggests, is also open to question. The Law Commission (among many others) has been forthright in its criticisms of the uncertainty of this new offence, and it has recommended that conspiracy to trespass should be abolished along with all the other heads of conspiracy to commit acts which are not in themselves criminal.

This proposal would not leave householders defenceless against squatters. The criminal law has other means of dealing with the offences of forcible entry and forcible detainer, which have already been used in prosecutions of squatters, some of whom have been sent to prison (see *Montford* 1971 2 WLR 1106 and *Robinson* 1970 3 WLR 1039).

No one would deny, however, that these offences require modernization (the Statutes against forcible entry date from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries), and the Law Commission is grappling with this task. Inevitably the alternative offences it has proposed are themselves controversial. It is in due course the whole matter must be considered by Parliament. In the meantime the courts should not seek to provide a remedy by further extensions of the already over-extended and much-abused law of conspiracy.

Yours etc.  
ROBERT HAZELL,  
5 Essex Court,  
Temple, EC4.

## Dogs by Motorail

From Mr Max Lightwood  
Sir, If Mr Williams (letter, July 24) is taking his wife and two dogs to Scotland by train gives the dogs one side of the compartment plus blankets and pillow, and puts his wife to sleep on the floor—as plainly British Rail intends and right thinking people would consider reasonable and proper—then he cannot say with some satisfaction that to take his wife costs him 5p less than the dogs?

Yours faithfully,  
MAX LIGHTWOOD,  
21a Cloudestry Street, N1.

## Workers in the boardroom

From Mr E. J. Clyne

Sir, To those of us engaged in industry who are anxious to extend industrial democracy by means of worker participation, there seems to be an inherent contradiction in the Government Committee of Inquiry's terms of reference, as recorded by you today.

"Accepting the need for a radical extension of industrial democracy" does not necessarily involve "control of companies", nor is this latter aim necessarily achieved by "representation on boards of directors", while "accepting the essential role of trade union organizations in this process" is actively at variance with that major aspect of industrial democracy concerned with worker participation.

Experience in those countries where industrial democracy has made the greatest strides, eg, Sweden, Germany and Holland, indicates that the workers' real power and sense of involvement resides in the works council. This is because its members are chosen by the workers in the plants themselves, and not imposed on them from outside by the executive of the company. In Germany, with its history of works councils going back for over 100 years, the unions are actually excluded from participation in the election procedures, though 80 per cent of the works councils' members are, in fact, trade unionists.

The reason why the works council is powerful, and gives the workers that sense of personal involvement, which is the essence of industrial democracy, is that it deals with problems they can identify with, such as wages, holidays, safety regulations, the right to information, training plans and the selection of personnel. These matters should not be discussed simply as "hygiene factors", nor should it be thought that this makes the German works council into an anodyne or toothless tiger, since it has, in fact, a veto right on the hiring and firing of all personnel, including management, with the exception of the managing director.

In short, the works council is powerful, effective and democratic because it has teeth, a right to the facts, deals with immediate, deeply felt, in-plant issues and is independent of the big unions whose strategic and industry-wide interests may and must be different from the council's aims, but which they cannot override.

## Gossip columns

From Mr Brian Vine

Sir, I am sorry that Mrs Rex Harrison wrote to you as she did (August 6).

The two reporters—actually it was a reporter and a photographer—who were admitted to her home have a decidedly different recollection of last Friday when they talked with her and she posed for a photograph.

Mrs Harrison claims that our article last Saturday gave the impression that I had given an interview for a fee—providing we made no use of our talk with her last Friday.

Mrs Harrison says that she has "limited experience" of "irresponsible and deplorable journalism". No doubt she recalls that recently this newspaper answered an appeal from her to help trace some of her stolen jewellery by sending around pictures from our files of her wearing some of the jewellery. The police used them in their inquiries.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN VINE,  
Assistant Editor,  
Daily Express,  
121 Fleet Street, EC4,  
August 4.

## Liverpool Street Station

From Dr Patrick Nutgens and others

Sir, On August 5 British Rail submitted for formal planning approval an exhibition site put forward both by the public and by the Council of Liverpool Street and Broad Street Stations and the Great Eastern Railway—parts of which by a chance of irony were listed by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the same day.

They claim that in order to accommodate the future operation requirements of the station, all the existing buildings must be demolished, and replaced by a brand new station. In order to pay for this new station they are proposing a vast commercial development consisting of 840,000 square feet of office space, a shopping centre, a new 300-bed hotel, etc. Together, all these elements amount to possibly the largest single commercial scheme in London, and will cost £220 million.

Yet, it has been proved that in order to bring the station up-to-date in operating terms, total redevelopment is unnecessary, and that adaptation of the existing buildings could achieve the same ends. The existing buildings are very fine, and are well worth retaining. Liverpool Street's train sheds with their breathtaking fan-railling and aisle-and-transverse form can be described as a cast-iron cathedral of the railway age. Broad Street, though hemmed in by later additions, is still superb with its French Renaissance twin mansard pavilions, spacious booking hall and elegant Florentine stairway. The Great Eastern Hotel, which is British Rail's most profitable hotel, and is about to be refurbished at a cost of £100,000, contains some of the most spectacular Victorian and Edwardian interiors in London. British Rail propose to sweep all this away. Their only sop to the conservationists is to keep the Abercorn Rooms of the Great Eastern Hotel.

Surely in an age of economic stringency and scarce resources, it does not make sense to destroy perfectly sound buildings of a quality we could not hope to match today, especially as an alternative scheme is in existence. British Rail have refused to allow these alternative proposals, prepared by the Liverpool Street Station Campaign, to be displayed alongside their own.

British Rail claim that their public consultation exercise revealed massive support for their plans; but public consultation, which involves presentation of only one set of proposals instead of alternatives, does not allow people to make up their own minds, and is a sham. Since British Rail will not put forward

Board representation, on the other hand, has not produced this feeling of involvement and participation, because the shop floor worker is not in daily contact with his "representatives" because the latter are often, though not invariably, outsiders appointed by an outside body (the union) from whom he feels remote and, where there is a clash between union and in-plant interests, alienated.

In Yugoslavia, where the board of directors is composed entirely of workers' representatives and the managing director is appointed by the board, there is in fact a greater feeling of alienation on the part of the shop floor worker than in most Western European countries, just because the new meritocrats, having risen from the ranks, tend to form a closed élite, nominally responsible to the workers who elected them, but in practice out of touch with the concerns of those they represent.

All this does not argue against the desirability of board representation where vital, large company issues, such as investment or expansion plans, are concerned, though it may be argued that this is more successfully dealt with by permanent or ad hoc consultative mechanisms involving industry, the unions and the Government (or regional planning boards).

The Government's brief to the committee should therefore be to survey the practices of industrial democracy as it exists in other countries, and to make recommendations how to adapt the most successful of these to the United Kingdom situation. Most emphatically it should not so construct its brief as to imply an *a priori* assertion that Board representation *in toto* extends industrial democracy. The evidence is that it does not.

Yours faithfully,  
E. J. CLYNE,  
33 Old Bond Street, W1,  
August 6.

From Mr John Chaloner  
Sir, With reference to the headline to your lead story today. There are already workers in the boardroom of this company. There always have been. They are the directors. Could we now abandon this national terminological inexactitude?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CHALONER, Chairman,  
Scourage Pans Group,  
29 Eccleston Square, SW1,  
August 6.

her letter her telephone request to us not to let it appear in the story that she had "entertained" the *Express* in her home. And also not to involve her children in a photograph. Both requests were gladly adhered to.

Five days later an interview expressing her feelings about her marriage to Mr Harrison appeared, together with a photograph of her relaxing at home, in a Sunday tabloid. In this article she was interviewed by her official biographer. He had offered us a similar, lengthy interview for a fee—providing we made no use of our talk with her last Friday.

Mrs Harrison says that she has "limited experience" of "irresponsible and deplorable journalism". No doubt she recalls that recently this newspaper answered an appeal from her to help trace some of her stolen jewellery by sending around pictures from our files of her wearing some of the jewellery. The police used them in their inquiries.

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Sir, On August 5 British Rail submitted for formal planning approval an exhibition site put forward both by the public and by the Council of Liverpool Street and Broad Street Stations and the Great Eastern Railway—parts of which by a chance of irony were listed by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the same day.

They claim that in order to accommodate the future operation requirements of the station, all the existing buildings must be demolished, and replaced by a brand new station. In order to pay for this new station they are proposing a vast commercial development consisting of 840,000 square feet of office space, a shopping centre, a new 300-bed hotel, etc. Together, all these elements amount to possibly the largest single commercial scheme in London, and will cost £220 million.

Yet, it has been proved that in order to bring the station up-to-date in operating terms, total redevelopment is unnecessary, and that adaptation of the existing buildings could achieve the same ends. The existing buildings are very fine, and are well worth retaining. Liverpool Street's train sheds with their breathtaking fan-railling and aisle-and-transverse form can be described as a cast-iron cathedral of the railway age. Broad Street, though hemmed in by later additions, is still superb with its French Renaissance twin mansard pavilions, spacious booking hall and elegant Florentine stairway. The Great Eastern Hotel, which is British Rail's most profitable hotel, and is about to be refurbished at a cost of £100,000, contains some of the most spectacular Victorian and Edwardian interiors in London. British Rail propose to sweep all this away. Their only sop to the conservationists is to keep the Abercorn Rooms of the Great Eastern Hotel.

Surely in an age of economic stringency and scarce resources, it does not make sense to destroy perfectly sound buildings of a quality we could not hope to match today, especially as an alternative scheme is in existence. British Rail have refused to allow these alternative proposals, prepared by the Liverpool Street Station Campaign, to be displayed alongside their own.

British Rail claim that their public consultation exercise revealed massive support for their plans; but public consultation, which involves presentation of only one set of proposals instead of alternatives, does not allow people to make up their own minds, and is a sham. Since British Rail will not put forward

## Fruits of Helsinki Conference

From Sir Anthony Royle, Conservative MP for Richmond-upon-Thames  
Sir, As Deputy to the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, I attended the first stage of the Helsinki Conference in July, 1973. The ground work at that meeting resulted in the heads of Government gathering in Helsinki last week.

The British Delegation in 1973 had no illusions about the difficulties of such a conference. Mr Anthony Elliot, HM Ambassador to Finland, had played a key role in the preparations entailing impressive co-operation in the foreign policy field by the nine members of the EC. But whilst working for better relations between East and West, we were constantly aware of the dangers of imagining changes in basic communist policy where none existed.

The Prime Minister's remarks in the House as reported in your paper today (August 6), does a disservice to his own credibility and that of the government.

The statement "What happened in Czechoslovakia would not have happened if we had the Helsinki agreement first" must rank as one of the most naive statements made by any British leader since the events of the late 1920s. To follow this remark by stating that "there was some evidence of financial assistance to a party machine in Portugal" but there was an important distinction between that and government support is either yet another commentary on our Prime Minister's glibility or on Mr Brennan's skills at pulling wool over the eyes of Labour ministers.

Whilst we all pray that détente will succeed, it is fortunate that at least the Leader of the Opposition was prepared to state the unvarnished facts to the nation in her Chelsea speech.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY ROYLE,  
House of Commons,  
August 6.

## Review of Post Office

From Sir Hugh Greene and others

Sir, Although we are aware of the need for the Government to take firm action in the current economic crisis, we remain greatly concerned about the increases in charges by the Post Office due to take effect on September 29 this year. As a cross-section of organizations we shall be very adversely affected by such increases and by some of the proposed reductions in service. Furthermore, we greatly doubt whether these changes will in fact help the position of the Post Office since they will certainly result in a reduction of staff.

The Post Office Users' National Council has just called for an intensive, independent review of Post Office structure, organization and services. We believe that such a review, establishing the sort of services we, as a nation, need and the methods by which they should be financed, is long overdue before this last round of increases is in any way implemented.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH GREENE, Chairman,  
National Book Committee,  
representing: National Book League, Association of American Agents, Association of Mail Order Publishers, Booksellers Association, Librarians' Association, Periodical Publishers' Association, Publishers' Association, Society of Authors, HENRY KENDALL, Director, British Printing Industries Federation.

PHILIP GOODHART,  
CHRISTOPHER PRICE,  
MARTIN GORE, Director,  
The National Book League,  
7 Albemarle Street, W1,  
August 7.

## Welsh way of life

From Professor Ior Gwynn

Sir, Your Welsh Correspondent has written an admirable article (August 2) on the delightful Welsh-speaking villages and community of Llanfyllin in the county of Merioneth. Long may it thrive.

Nevertheless there are other very different communities in Wales that also deserve respect. I spent the depression years in the anglicized town of Pontypridd in the mining valleys of Glamorgan. The town had courage and humanity in a difficult time, and continues to have a vigorous culture of its own, although the Welsh language is not much heard in the streets.

For the past 10 years I have lived in the university town of Aberystwyth a delightful town where Welsh and English live side by side, neither wishing to oust the other. Like Llanfyllin it has a case for the mind and the spirit.

Mr Fishlock illuminates one facet of Welsh life. In mentioning others of Welsh life, the Aristotelian precept "nothing in excess" is justified.

Yours truly,  
IOR GWYNN,  
Bryn Dinas,  
56 Maes Hendre,  
Wauan Fawr,  
Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire.

## Those who write

From Mr A. W. Chapman

Sir, I was interested in David Tang's letter (August 5) about your contributors to this column. I have been much struck in recent years by the number who write from "The Old Rectory". What a common address! Are there really so many of them, or is it perhaps that those who live in former rectories are so influenced by the ghosts of former generations who must in their time in the confines of their studies have done much writing that they are unable to resist the urge to write to you, Sir.

Had I the time I would search your columns of the last two years for names and supply you with figures. The results though quite useless in our present crisis could not fail to be interesting. Perhaps Mr Tang would care to extend his researches? Yours faithfully,  
A. W. CHAPMAN,  
Blenchard, Queen's Road,  
Dorchester, Dorset,  
August 5.



## No-one should suffer in silence

Deafness may not seem to be a dramatic complaint, but its victims suffer an isolation and heartbreak unimaginable to the hearing.

The RNID tries to ease the anguish of suffering in silence. We provide a special school for children, a hostel for young adults and residential homes for the elderly. We run laboratories, a social welfare service and one of the world's largest information services devoted entirely to deafness.

Unfortunately, the RNID has to rely on donations, covenants and bequests to continue this work. It's unfortunate because our needs continually outpace our resources. Your contribution, however small, will mean that someone who suffers from deafness will suffer a little less.

So please give something soon.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf  
Room 38,  
105 Gower Street, London  
WC1E 6AH  
Tel: 01-387 8033

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf  
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helps deaf people to live with deafness  
(Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, KG)

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## The Times Special Reports.

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BALMORAL CASTLE**  
August 7: The Queen, accompanied by the Prince Andrew and the Prince Edward, arrived at the Balmorral Castle in the Royal Train this morning and was received by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen (Councillor R. S. Lennox).

Her Majesty, with the Royal Highnesses, drove to Salinas Castle and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire (Mr. Maitland Mackie).

The Lady Susan Hussey, Mr. William Heseltine and Major Robin Brooke are in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
August 7: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited the Lady Nelson Home, Thorpe-Soken, and in the evening Her Royal Highness was present at the Colchester Searchlight Tattoo.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight. Miss Jane Egerton-Warburton was in attendance.

A memorial service for Sir Peter Dainton will be held at St. Paul's Church, Chester, on Tuesday, September 2, at noon.

## Birthdays today

Lord Campbell of Eskan, 63; Mr. Justice Canby, 65; Viscount Cobham, 66; Mr. Graham Dawbarn, 62; Sir John Fletcher-Cooke, 64; Sir Henderson, 64; Major General R. C. S. Hobbs, 67; Mr. Desmond Long, 61; Sir Denning Pearson, 67; Sir Hugh Rankin, 72; Professor J. R. S. Squire, 72; Lord Transil, 72; Professor J. Yuddin, 63.

## Marriage

Mr. C. Fitzroy and Miss J. Brudenell-Bruce. The marriage took place yesterday at St. Peter's Church, Newmarket, Suffolk, of Mr. Charles Fitzroy, eldest son of the Hon. Charles and Mrs. Fitzroy, of Stone Cross, Chagford, Devon, and Miss Joanna Brudenell-Bruce, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Brudenell-Bruce, of Moulton Padocks, Newmarket, Cambridgeshire.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of white satin. She was attended by John Lloyd, Katie Cecil, Jane Rowe, Alexandra Embiricos and Miss Sara Brudenell-Bruce. Mr. James Charrington was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in France and Malta.

## Church news

**Appointments:**  
The Rev. G. T. Botting, Vicar of Shroton, and Rector of Campton, diocese of Ely, to be Vicar of Walsingham-on-Sow, diocese of Coventry.

The Rev. R. N. Bowler, Rector of St. Luke's, Kingsland, diocese of London, to be Vicar of St. Mary's, diocese of Southwark. The Rev. R. N. Bowler, Rector of St. Mary's, diocese of Southwark, to be Vicar of St. Luke's, Kingsland, diocese of London.

**Diocese of Birmingham**  
The Rev. J. Holden to be Vicar of St. Peter and St. Paul, Aston.

The Rev. D. E. McCormack, curate at Holy Trinity, diocese of Birmingham, to be Vicar of St. Catherine's, Blackwell, diocese of Exeter.

**Diocese of Newcastle**  
The Rev. P. Whitehead, Vicar of St. Peter and St. Paul, to be Vicar of St. Mary's, diocese of Newcastle.

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Work in progress at Mansion House, where experts are dismantling and cleaning the chandeliers while the Lord Mayor of London is away.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr. D. A. Bull and Miss F. E. A. Clarke. The engagement is announced between David Andrew Bull, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Bull, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Frances Elizabeth Clarke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Clarke, of Wokingham, Surrey.

Mr. R. Griffiths and Miss C. S. Wilhelms. The engagement is announced between Robert Griffiths, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Griffiths, of Stone Cottage, Colgate, Sussex, and Christine Wilhelms, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Wilhelms, of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland.

Mr. R. Joyce and Miss J. P. Gooden. The marriage has been arranged between Richard Joyce, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Joyce, of Sidmouth, Devon, and Miss J. P. Gooden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Gooden, of Wokingham, Surrey.

Mr. J. M. E. Moss and Miss J. L. Rowe. The engagement is announced between Jeremy Moss, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. E. Moss, of Littlecote, Compton Down, Winchester, and Miss J. L. Rowe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Rowe, of Littlecote, Compton Down, Winchester.

Mr. R. A. Fellow and Miss P. D. G. MacLellan. The engagement is announced between Robin Fellow, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Fellow, of Rye, East Sussex, and Patricia D. G. MacLellan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. D. G. MacLellan, of Beckenham, Kent.

Mr. F. N. Teskey and Miss C. R. Robson. The engagement is announced between F. N. Teskey, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Teskey, of Belfast, and Catherine Robson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Robson, of Barrow, Essex.

Mr. P. S. B. White and Miss R. H. Hughes. The engagement is announced between P. S. B. White, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. P. S. B. White, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss R. H. Hughes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Hughes, of Wokingham, Surrey.

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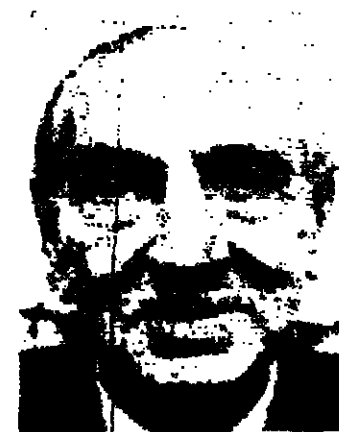
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## OBITUARY

### MR JAMES GRIFFITHS, CH An elder statesman of Labour Party



The Rt Hon James Griffiths, CH, PC, one of the Labour Party's most influential and best-known figures, died yesterday aged 84, at his home at Teddington, Middlesex. He was MP for Llanelli from 1936 until he retired at the 1970 general election.

Griffiths was Minister of National Insurance from 1945 to 1950, Colonial Secretary from 1950 to 1951, and Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party from 1951 to 1959.

The crown of his political career was his appointment in 1964-66 as the first Secretary of State for Wales in the Cabinet and a department to which Whitehall had transferred the most important Welsh responsibilities.

Griffiths brought to the Labour movement a sense of the importance of a warm and generous personality. He stood in the true line of those working-class leaders whose social idealism nourished the roots from which the party drew its political strength.

Griffiths never lost the sense of mission of that radical nonconformist tradition in which he was bred. It gave something of a prophetic quality to his public life and lifted him above the strivings of rival factions. He stood for something stable and enduring which gave him unique authority as an influence for peace and for social justice.

It was the opportunity for him to translate that faith into political action he rejected in being the chosen instrument, as Minister of National Insurance, to build into the fabric of the Welfare State a comprehensive system of social insurance against sickness, unemployment and old age. Later, as Colonial Secretary, he strove to apply the same broad principles to the conduct of his responsibilities in overseas territories.

His simple duty, as he conceived it, was to apply a world-wide scale of liberalizing benefits of the Welfare State. If, in the eyes of his critics, he strayed into errors of judgement in Colonial policy, his mistakes were those of a man whose heart ruled his head.

His early experience as a trade union leader in the harshest periods of the working-class struggle never embittered him. He fought hard but without rancour. He could kindle the ardour of an audience but he never sought to inflame it. If he was a sentimentalist, the sentiments were deep and genuine. Cynics might sneer when Jim Griffiths, hand on heart in that familiar gesture, poured out a flood of Celtic emotion. In his highest flights

of Welsh fervour he could be prophetic, repetitive, often obscure, but real sincerity shone through the welter of words. "Let me say this, Mr Speaker," he would say, "I am a Welshman, and I am proud of it. I am a Welshman, and I am proud of it. I am a Welshman, and I am proud of it."

Lord Hurcomb, GCR, KBE, wartime Director-General of the Ministry of Shipping and of the Board of Trade, died yesterday at the age of 92. His magnificent service during the 1939-45 war was undoubtedly the outstanding peak of his long career.

Cyril William Hurcomb was educated at Oxford High School and St John's College, Oxford, of which he was made an honorary Fellow in 1938. He entered the Civil Service in 1906 and was appointed to the GPO, where, from 1911 onwards, he was principal secretary to successive PMs, among them Lord Samuel.

He first entered the transport field, in which he spent most of his official life, in 1917, when the Ministry of Shipping was formed and housed in the hideous temporary buildings on the site of the old Admiralty Hotel, Park Lane. There he joined a brilliant team which included John Anderson, afterwards Lord Waverley, and Arthur Salter, later Lord Salter, and worked as Deputy Director of Commercial Services under Sir Percy Wetherby, who was one of the few men whom he formed a close and lasting friendship. Later, he succeeded Sir Percy as Director of Commercial Services with the responsibility for planning the civil import programme for the country.

After the war he went to the newly-formed Ministry of Transport and remained in that turbulent Ministry, first as Director of Finance, and later in higher positions—he became Permanent Secretary in 1929—suffering rapid changes of Minister and living under the continual threat of abolition, until he was appointed Chairman of the Electricity Commission in 1937.

His experience in the First World War made him the obvious choice to take charge when, at the outbreak of war in 1939, the new Ministry of Shipping was set up to control the operations of shipping and to ensure its most effective use in the war effort. This time the Ministry took over also the Marine functions of the Board of Trade, which had not happened in the First World War.

He realized at once that the shipping shortage which was bound to show itself very soon would call for the complete control of all British ships, of their cargoes, and of their movements. As much foreign tonnage as possible, later, when most of Europe had been overrun, came under the free government of the main maritime nations, who had then become allies, for the chartering of practically all their ships.

Representatives of those governments were brought into the Ministry and assisted in deciding what individual ships—particularly those of their own—were to be sent to the front. They knew they could count on him for the full support of his colleagues, to see that, even in exile, their views were really counted.

Thus Lord Hurcomb brought about a happy cooperation of all those countries in this vital and difficult task. While the Ministry of Shipping thus gained control of the bulk of the tonnage of the

free world, except that of the United States, the Ministry of Food and of Supply and the Board of Trade determined the nature of the imports required, and the extremely complex task of drawing up shipping programmes was carried out by these Departments working together with the Ministry.

That throughout the war the country received the supplies of food and materials necessary to sustain the population and supply the fighting forces was due in no small measure to the foresight and driving energy of Cyril Hurcomb.

He foresaw the severity of the coming shortage of shipping long before it made itself felt and insisted that the planning machinery should be devised and put into operation in proper time. He also saw that the shipping must be controlled by an independent department which itself made no claims on shipping services.

It was largely his stout resistance that averted the disaster which would inevitably have overtaken the war effort as a whole had any of the opinionated groups, civil or military, which were so vocal from time to time, succeeded in wresting control of any part of the merchant fleet from the Ministry. Publications some while ago about Lord Cherwell have revealed something of the extent of the damage which would have been done by the activities of the King's enemies.

It was said of him once by a man who worked closely with him, but had no great personal liking for him, that he was one of the few men among the men whose foresight, capacity and energy had saved us from losing the war. This was a just tribute.

When, in May



## Credit ban threatens £27m sales to Argentina

By Christopher Wilkins

British exports to Argentina worth £22m have been thrown into jeopardy by the abrupt Credits Guarantee Department decision to stop providing cover for exports to that country involving credit of more than six months.

One deal involving £20m of capital equipment sales, transnational co-ECGD guarantees being obtained, had already been initiated but not signed by the authorities in Argentina when the ECGD made its decision known.

It is believed that shortly before the decision was taken the ECGD had indicated to the exporters concerned that cover would be granted. Without this it is uncertain the deal will fall through.

A second deal, worth about £2m, had also reached an

## Good Shell figures a boost for oil shares

By Our Financial Staff

Second quarter figures for the Royal Dutch/Shell group yesterday were a good deal better than stock market expectations, and they inspired general upsurge in oil shares. Shell, Esso, and Trading Co. (United Kingdom) members of the group, closed 56p up to 264p, while BP, which was at 577p, by the close.

This was in contrast to the rest of the equity market, which was discouraged by a zone of the CBI's survey of industrial trends, and by a fresh wave of sterling. The FT index rose 12.5 points to 2274.5, while Dutch Shell's income in the second quarter of 1975 was £257.5m, compared with £248.2m in the corresponding period of last year. Analysts had expected the 1975 second quarter figure to be between £160m and £180m and was down on the first quarter figure.

Adjusted for capital profits tax and other provisions the second quarter figure is almost exactly on line with the first quarter's, adjusted figures. The apparent stabilizing of oil company earnings which tips after the oil crisis. Ample, as the figures for Anglo-Dutch oil, gas and chemicals group, reported outside North America oil sales volumes in the second quarter were 14 per cent below level for the same period, 1974.

Natural gas sales volume was changed and earnings improved. The average of high oil prices, however, sales volumes and earnings continued at markedly lower levels than in 1974.

Financial Editor, page

sharply. One quote, at about 4.30 pm, was as low as \$2.0990, but a small recovery helped the pound towards the close. Dealers referred to one special factor depressing the

## Stern creditors discuss scheme

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| INTERIM STATEMENT  |                                    |                                    |                                      |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| For the half year ended 30th April 1975                        |                                    |                                    |                                      |
| Trading Receipts & Profit                                      | Half Year<br>to 30th<br>April 1974 | Half Year<br>to 30th<br>April 1974 | Full Year<br>to 31st<br>October 1974 |
|  | £12,000                            | £12,000                            | £12,000                              |
| Trading Receipts   | £354,440                           | £331,369                           | £330,385                             |
| Gross Trading Profit   | 12,666                             | 11,496                             | 33,776                               |
| Depreciation and Amortisation                                  | 5,436                              | 4,867                              | 10,510                               |
| Net Trading Profit   | 7,232                              | 6,539                              | 23,665                               |
| Financial Charges  | 8,538                              | 6,704                              | 14,490                               |
| Profits less Losses on Sale of<br>Fixed Assets and Investments | (1,306)                            | (165)                              | 9,175                                |
|  | £12 82                             | £6 458                             | £20 83                               |
| Minority Interest  | (£1,254)                           | £3,253                             | £1,857                               |
|  | (256)                              | (768)                              | 507                                  |
| Profit (Loss) before Taxation                                  | £9969                              | £1,500                             | £21,500                              |

\*NOTES

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 The above figures are unaudited.  | 2 No tax charge assessment is possible at the half year stage, since the annual tax rate is dependent upon the profitability of the second half of the year. |
| 3 The figures for minority interest reflect the seasonal nature of the companies concerned. |  |

## How the markets moved

| THE POUND       |             |              |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
|                 | Bank<br>buy | Bank<br>sell |
| Australia \$    | 1.84        | 1.69         |
| Austria Sch     | 39.50       | 37.50        |
| Belgium Fr      | 85.75       | 83.40        |
| Canada \$       | 2.24        | 2.19         |
| Denmark Kr      | 12.90       | 12.50        |
| Finland Mk      | 8.20        | 7.95         |
| France Fr       | 9.45        | 9.15         |
| Germany DM      | 5.60        | 5.40         |
| Greece Dr       | 12.24       | 11.90        |
| India Rs        | 11.05       | 10.65        |
| Italy L.        | 1,610.00    | 1,580.00     |
| Japan Yn        | 685.70      | 636.00       |
| Netherlands Gld | 5.75        | 5.55         |
| Norway Kr       | 1.80        | 1.75         |
| Portugal Esc    | 58.00       | 54.00        |
| S Africa Rd     | 1.84        | 1.69         |
| Spain Pes       | 125.75      | 120.75       |
| Sweden Kr       | 9.35        | 9.05         |
| Switzerland Fr  | 5.85        | 5.65         |
| S S             | 21.65       | 21.15        |
| Yugoslavia Dnr  | 35.50       | 35.50        |

Rates for bank remittance bank  
notes only, as supplied yesterday by  
the Clearing Bank, Commercial L.  
and others, plus applied to variations  
between and other foreign currency  
business.

|   |    |
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| Trust Houses Forte                      | 15 |

## Chairman's Statement

The figures for the first half year reflect the seasonal nature of our business. The Gross Trading Profit is up by 10% despite unparalleled increases in operational costs, including a swinginge rise in the General Rates. This profit has, however, been absorbed by increased financial charges.

The results for the second half of the year are proving to be better than the comparable period last year and this leads us to look forward to the year-end results with some confidence. Being largely a cash business our cash flow is healthy.

It is proposed that the interim dividend payable in the autumn will be at the rate of 1.75p per share which with the related tax credit is equivalent to 2.69p gross compared with 2.61p gross last year.

We thank our staff for their dedication and loyalty in serving the public in an industry which is of such importance to the national economy.

THORNEYCROFT  
7th August 1975

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# Sir Monty unveils plans for BSC 'profit centres' on regional lines

By David Young

Sir Monty Finniston, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, yesterday unveiled its plans for a major reorganization which creates five new sectors within the corporation and returns much of the responsibility for running the industry back to the regions.

The reorganization, which has received Department of Industry and Trade approval, will be completed by March next year. Sir Monty said yesterday it is not a return to the conditions which existed prior to the last reorganization in 1970 but a move towards turning suitable sectors of the corporation into separate successful businesses, described by British Steel as "profit centres".

These profit centres will be

BSC (International), the subsidiary holding company for overseas activities; BSC (UK) the subsidiary holding company for British interests; Redpath Dorman Long, the construction engineering subsidiary; BSC (Chemicals) and the smaller specialist product divisions.

The most significant change, however, is in the reorganization of the iron and steel making activities, which since 1970 have been run on product division lines. The product divisions will be replaced by five new manufacturing divisions based on the main steel-making centres.

These manufacturing divisions will be Scotland, Teesside, Scunthorpe, Sheffield and Wales, which seems to be a return to the pre-1970 situation. However, the significance of

this move is that each division will be totally responsible for handling one particular product.

Scotland, with divisional headquarters in Glasgow, will be responsible for plates, Teesside for heavy and medium sections, Sheffield and Scunthorpe for billets and billet derived products and Wales, headquartered in Cardiff, responsible for strip mill products.

Each product division will control handling and all other orders to manufacturers in accordance with overall production and commercial plans for its particular product.

The report containing the organizational review also outlines steps to extend the present employee director scheme, which was introduced in 1969.

## Britain lands less than half offshore plant deals placed

British industry last year picked up less than half the business placed for equipment and services to support the development of the country's offshore oil and gas reserves.

Total orders placed by companies operating in the North Sea amounted to £1,300m compared with £650m the previous year. But of last year's orders, British companies obtained only £520m worth of business, equivalent to 40 per cent.

But the Offshore Supplies Office, which published the figures yesterday in a report, noted that British companies' share of orders accounted for 47 per cent of capital goods orders and 29 per cent of contracts for services.

However, in an attempt to

make the performance more attractive, the OSO explained that if the areas where the United Kingdom had little or no capability were excluded—including drilling rig hire and subsea pipe supply—the overall British share was equivalent to 55 per cent.

But the report noted that even where there was a capability, in certain areas there was a lack of capacity to meet the oil companies' full requirements.

"Since development of the northern sector of the North Sea began, United Kingdom firms have won 13 of the 19 orders placed for oil production platforms", the report noted.

"Offshore Oil and Gas: A Summary of Orders (RMSO 30p).

## ICI investing £8m on nitric fertilizer plant

Investment of £8m on a new nitric acid plant at Billingham, co Durham, for its agricultural division was announced yesterday by Imperial Chemical Industries.

Construction is scheduled to start next year and the 175,000 tons-a-year capacity plant is expected to be operational in the spring of 1977.

The plant will complement existing nitric acid plants on Teesside and Severnside and at Heysham, Lancashire, and will assist in realising more fully the potential of ICI's ammonium nitrate plant at Billingham. That plant and another on Severnside already supply nearly 60 per cent of Britain's straight nitrogen fertilizers.

## CBP's 57th industrial trends survey, July 1975

| Total trade                          |       |       |      |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
|                                      | Value | Index | Rate |
| 1. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 2. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 3. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 4. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 5. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 6. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 7. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 8. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 9. All goods, services, and capital  | 7     | 80    | 47   |
| 10. All goods, services, and capital | 7     | 80    | 47   |

## MP urges official inquiry into engineering bodies

By Derek Harris

Mr. Arthur Palmer, Labour MP for Bristol North-east and chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, last night wrote to the Prime Minister urging a government inquiry into the engineering profession.

This comes after a year of controversy in the profession, particularly over the structure of the Council of Engineering Institutions, the umbrella body for 15 chartered organizations.

A majority of CEI members

have now backed compromise proposals. One result will be to allow into the chartered club engineers meeting required standards who are members of non-CEI bodies. There are more than 30 such bodies involved in engineering but not in CEI.

Mr. Palmer is anxious that the position of all groups in engineering should be investigated. He feels a wide-based committee of inquiry, including representatives from the profession, would produce quicker results than a Royal Commission.

## Price Code changes to cover limit on wages

Amendments to the Price Code in line with the proposals made in Mr. Healey's recent White Paper on counterinflation measures have been announced by Mrs. Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The main change means that any wage increase made over the £6 a week voluntary limit will not be considered as an allowable cost in submissions to the Price Commission for price increases.

With every price application employers will have to notify the commission of any settlement underlying the application. The Government will certify to the commission whether any of these settlements breach the limit, and where an employer does breach the limit, the entire pay increase will be disallowed for price increases.

## Car production 23pc below level of July 1974

Car production in the four weeks to July 26 totalled 72,000 units. This represents a weekly rate of 18,000 vehicles, 23 per cent lower than the July, 1974 output.

Commercial vehicle output at 23,800 units was 14 per cent below the July, 1974 figure.

In seasonally adjusted terms, car production of 123,000 units in the holiday month of July was the highest achieved since January.

## Export advice body

A new Construction Exports Advisory Board has been set up by the Government to help focus effort on overseas work, particularly in the Middle East. Mr. Reg Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction said yesterday he hoped the arrangements made would be welcomed.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Short-term economic forecasts and the Treasury

From Dr. Jeremy Bray, Labour MP for Motherwell and Wishaw

Sir, The House of Lords did useful work, as I anticipated in my article in *The Times* on July 21, in tidying up the Schedule we inserted in the Commons in the Industry Bill, requiring the Treasury to publish short-term economic forecasts.

There is no requirement on the Government to anticipate future policy announcements since the Treasury is required to publish forecasts on alternative assumptions. Any member of the public will have access to the Treasury model to make forecasts on his own assumptions.

The Treasury is required to publish an analysis of forecast errors. And a minister making a planning agreement with a firm is required to explore with the firm its relationship to the national economy if the firm so desires.

The redrafting by the Government of some gaps which can be filled in the Commons on consideration of the Lords' amendments.

The Commons will, I hope, restore the requirements for quarterly rather than twice-yearly forecasts, will refuse the embarrassment to the Treasury of allowing it to expurgate forecasts, and will require the Treasury to develop a policy of optimization facility which draws the implications for policy of alternative sets of priorities.

The Treasury spends perhaps £1m per year on forecasting, compared with £150,000 by the National Institute and £75,000 by the London Business School. So there are facilities only the Treasury can develop, and a major development like policy optimization is one.

But basically the Government has accepted the intention of the Schedule, and is to be congratulated on doing so. I am sure the Treasury will discharge its obligations very competently, although it must be allowed time to do so.

JEREMY BRAY, House of Commons, August 6.

## CEI and the role of institutions

From Mr. W. A. Feather

Sir, I would like to support Dr. Raymond Sharp's appeal of July 23 as my institution is typical of the specialist bodies to which he referred.

A few years ago CEI established the ERB with the intention of providing a form of registration for engineers of differing ability and qualification—namely, chartered engineer, technician, engineer and technician.

My institution supported the creation of a body to be concerned with the engineering profession in society. At present it is recognized by ERB for the sponsorship of the technician engineer and the technician engaged in Public Health engineering, but CEI did not and has not implemented that part of its charter which provides for affiliate institutions. Membership in this form would enable this institution, which is non-chartered, to sponsor suitably qualified and experienced engineers for the status of chartered engineer.

My institution agrees that it would be regrettable if short-sighted views were to call a halt to the reorganization which CEI itself and a large proportion of the engineering profession deems necessary.

Not being in a position to affect directly the ultimate shape of the reorganization, my institution hopes, nevertheless, that its views on the matter will assist in the formulation of a sound and effective working arrangement.

Yours faithfully, W. A. FEATHER, President, The Institution of Public Health Engineers, 32 Exeter Square, Westminster, London, SW1.

## Telegraphic company names

From Mr. Ian Hunter

Sir, In the course of research into the origins of the firm of impresarios, Harold Holt, which was founded by the German, Alfred Schulz-Curtius in 1876, I came across his application for naturalization as a British subject in 1896. The letterhead carried the telegraphic address "Pronomina, London".

Apart from the fact that this seems most apt, I wonder if there are other firms with a telegraphic address registered at this date or earlier, which, as in our own case, is currently in use.

IAN HUNTER, Chairman, Harold Holt Limited, 122 Wigmore Street, London W1.

## Abortive of engineer to find unit

From Mr. J. A. C.

Sir, Derek Harris' article about the engineers' difficulty in the views of the institutions involved, balanced exposition by the late Roger Grev, December 1, 1968, a some 30 engineers' institutions was called by Leonard Dringman, some rationalized MP became chair body called SUCOPI.

It went some way to the bus to those die members of but die non-chartered institutions, the terms of institution could often create ones which are not important to the industry.

The difficulties, vested interests are but, but to those classification, which essential to bureau meaningful to a responsible engineer, to his daily work.

So much of the p is for engineering repair and maintenance equipment; this is concern of the no bodies, especially in port industry. In statutory qualification surely he required are not necessary with the membership of the various institutions.

In the specific case transport the system port Managers' in up in the Road 7 1968, have never compulsory and all Minister of Transport mentation.

In the graduate, membership surely interest as a ability to do a seems of immediate rather than institute ship.

So often both status, in which must have special management rather engineering. The aid cations which few institutions have yet J. A. C. WILLIAMS, Principal, The Chelsea Col Aeronautical and A Engineering, Sdney Street, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

## INTERIM STATEMENT



## Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies

### Results for First Half 1975

Net income divisible between Royal Dutch and Shell Transport for the second quarter of 1975 was £237 million, and for the first half of 1975 £457 million. The corresponding figures for 1974 were £248 million and £567 million, respectively. The latter figure included £125 million arising from abnormal stock profits partially offset by a charge of £60 million against possible future contract losses by General Atomic.

Net income for the quarter includes £25 million resulting from an over-provision in respect of certain long-standing tax issues now settled. Net income for the quarter and half-year also includes £22 million and £58 million respectively arising from profits on disposal of Group companies' interests in a number of countries. Provisions against possible losses on nationalization in other countries were made to the extent of approximately half these figures.

The continued depreciation of the pound against most major currencies has substantially increased earnings in terms of sterling.

Outside North America oil sales volumes for the second quarter were 14% below the level for the same period in 1974. Natural gas sales volumes were unchanged from the second quarter of 1974 but earnings improved mainly as a result of higher prices. Chemicals sales volumes and earnings continued at markedly lower levels than in 1974.

Net income from Shell Oil in the United States and Shell Canada was lower than for the second quarter of 1974, mainly as a result of increased taxation in both countries and higher royalties in Canada.

Capital expenditure was £294 million for the quarter, £539 million for the half-year, against £421 million for the first half of 1974.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME

|  | Second Quarter |         | First Half |         |
|--|----------------|---------|------------|---------|
|  | 1975           | 1974    | 1975       | 1974    |
| £ million  |                |         |            |         |
| Revenues   |                |         |            |         |
| Sales proceeds   | 4,240.2        | 4,185.6 | 8,351.1    | 8,168.5 |
| Less Sales taxes, excise duties and similar levies             | 887.0          | 846.1   | 1,677.5    | 1,621.0 |
| Other revenues   | 3,353.2        | 3,419.5 | 6,673.6    | 6,547.5 |
| Share of earnings (losses) of associated companies             | 108.8          | 11.3    | 207.8      | 139.4   |
| Interest income  | 45.6           | (14.7)  | 102.8      | 15.9    |
|  | 3,546.5        | 3,237.7 | 7,072.4    | 6,789.9 |
| Costs and expenses   |                |         |            |         |
| Purchases and operating expenses                               | 2,135.0        | 1,942.4 | 4,177.9    | 3,935.2 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                   | 409.4          | 355.8   | 827.3      | 722.2   |
| Exploration (including dry holes) and research and development | 95.3           | 166.9   | 176.2      | 124.0   |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization                       | 116.8          | 116.6   | 234.2      | 224.0   |
| Interest expense   | 46.8           | 31.5    | 90.9       | 52.1    |
| Taxation on income (excluding UK Advance Corporation Tax)      | 490.7          | 730.1   | 1,073.9    | 1,474.0 |
| Income applicable to minority interests                        | 15.0           | 28.2    | 33.5       | 60.4    |
|  | 3,309.0        | 3,276.3 | 6,615.0    | 6,216.5 |
| Net income for the period divisible under 60:40 arrangements   | 237.5          | 248     | 457.4      | 567.4   |

The net income divisible under 60:40 arrangements does not include any charge for UK Advance Corporation Tax payable on dividends flowing from United Kingdom companies of the Group to Shell Transport. Any such tax is allocated to Shell Transport and is available as a credit against its total liability for this tax, which is calculated on the dividends it declares to its shareholders.

## FINANCIAL DATA

|   | Second Quarter |         | First Half |         |
|---|----------------|---------|------------|---------|
|   | 1975           | 1974    | 1975       | 1974    |
| £ million   |                |         |            |         |
| Capital expenditure   | 294            | 190.8   | 520        | 420.5   |
| Cash and short-term securities, June 30                         | 1,765.8        | 1,765.8 | 1,765.8    | 1,765.8 |
| Long-term debt, June 30 (including amounts due within one year) | 1,914          | 1,914   | 1,914      | 1,914   |

## OPERATIONAL DATA

|   | Second Quarter |       | First Half |       |
|---|----------------|-------|------------|-------|
|   | 1975           | 1974  | 1975       | 1974  |
| thousand barrels daily  |                |       |            |       |
| Crude oil supply (production, buy-back oil under special arrangements, and other purchases) | 4,634          | 5,347 | 8,766      | 6,204 |
| Crude oil processed   | 4,634          | 5,347 | 8,766      | 6,204 |
| Sales of crude oil and oil products   | 5,002          | 5,739 | 9,188      | 5,911 |
| million cubic feet daily  |                |       |            |       |
| Sales of natural gas  | 6,233          | 6,900 | 12,133     | 6,935 |

The operational data include 100% of consolidated companies' figures plus, for crude oil processed and sales of natural gas, the Group proportion of associated companies' figures.

## PARENT COMPANY EQUITY IN GROUP NET INCOME DIVISIBLE UNDER 60:40 ARRANGEMENTS

|  | Second Quarter |         | First Half |         |
|--|----------------|---------|------------|---------|
|  | 1975           | 1974    | 1975       | 1974    |
| £ million  |                |         |            |         |
| ROYAL DUTCH (60%)  | 142.5          | 148.9   | 274.4      | 340.4   |
| SHELL TRANSPORT (40%)  | 95.0           | 99.3    | 183.0      | 227.0   |
| Expressed in terms of the parent companies' ordinary shares outstanding at June 30, 1975, these figures are equivalent to: |                |         |            |         |
| per Ordinary Share   |                |         |            |         |
| ROYAL DUTCH (134,018,522 shares of N.£20 each)   | 106.25p        | 111.14p | 204.78p    | 250.00p |
| SHELL TRANSPORT (552,417,207 shares of N.£20 each)   | 17.20p         | 17.98p  | 33.15p     | 41.00p  |

In the case of Shell Transport, the amounts per Ordinary Share are exclusive of Advance Corporation Tax leviable in respect of dividends paid.

August 7, 1975



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Shell gains from firmer prices

Abortive effort of engineers to find unity... about the engineering profession's difficulties... the engineering profession's difficulties... the engineering profession's difficulties...

making the customary second quarter net profit of £23.5m... the company's net profit... the company's net profit...

### Hutchison 'Substantial' support

Longstanding observers of the Hongkong market may recall how, back in 1963, the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank stepped in to rescue the Hang Seng Bank which at the time was suffering a severe run on deposits in the wake of a tumbling property market.

Seven years later, the Hang Seng was re-founded... very profitably for HK & S—and is now a highly respected institution.

The parallels for Hutchison International are clear enough. The bank is buying a third of the equity at HK\$1 a share, compared to a net worth, before the new shares are issued, of HK\$3.64 a share, and a current price of HK\$1.91. With HK & S itself expected to play an active role in management, there must be high expectations that it can refloat its stake once a certain amount of reorganization—and Hutchison has been notorious for its lack of integration of its many diverse interests—has been completed.

With the Hang Seng precedent in mind, it therefore seems likely that HK & S's own share price will respond favourably to the news. And should the situation prove to be worse than it looks, a HK\$150m investment needs to be seen in the context of a current capitalisation for the bank of some HK\$5,100m.

As for Hutchison itself, the news also seems likely to be taken as bullish, even though the bank's comment that "substantial support is required in the form of additional capital" suggests the internal situation could be even worse than it seems.

Projections are for a loss of around HK\$130m for the year to the end of last March. It is clear, however, that Hutchison's future has effectively been underwritten, and an injection of conservatism into a management whose style has been unashamedly opportunistic may be no bad thing for the long-term rating.

Hoover Judging the demand pattern

An unchanged interim dividend from Hoover yesterday, despite what appears to have been a better than expected first half recovery, seems to match the general mood of uncertainty as to what happens now. Second quarter pre-tax profit is up by £1.1m to £5.4m, being up further all in Europe reflecting the twin benefits of a return to normal production after last year's strikes and the pre-Budget boom.

The group's line is that orders have held up remarkably well, with shortages in some key areas like washing machines, which appears to contrast with trade figures for May indicating a volume drop of between 15 per cent and 30 per cent across Hoover's range of products. But the dealers were right out of stock at the beginning of May, and some gentle restocking through June and July was in order. Furthermore, Hoover reckons that its market share, which took a beating last year has bounced right back, and indeed increased in some areas.

But it is still unclear to what extent the higher rates of VAT have affected underlying spending patterns, particularly taken in conjunction with restraint on disposable income. Hoover's cautious optimism seems plausible enough, but one has only to look at Europe, where interim profits are down from £0.5m to £0.3m to see the possibility of a sharp fall in demand. Profits for the full 12 months do not appear to be making too many demands on the group's resilience in the second half. But even with the shares at 235p and an above average yield of 7.3 per cent (assuming an unchanged dividend) there is no case yet for buying the shares.

Interim: 1975 (1974)  
Capitalization £46.3m  
Sales £86.9m (£80.2m)  
Pre-tax profits £11.7m (£5.8m)  
Dividend gross 8.53p (8.52p)

Bougainville Nationalism and copper

Bougainville's interim pre-tax profits were down by 75 per cent to the equivalent of \$4.2m (labour \$7.5m). But that comes as little surprise, given the effective 10 per cent cut in output of metal and, more important, the slump in the copper price over the last year. Against an average price of £1.095 for the first half of 1974 that for the latest period was only £0.72 a tonne. At the net level, however, there was a marginal amelioration due to a drop in the tax charge from 35 to 30 per cent.

As for prospects for the remainder of this year, Bougainville has a net 431 per cent stake faces the problems of the copper industry world-wide and some peculiar to Papua New Guinea. PNG itself becomes independent from Australia on September 16, but Bougainville Island has already said it will secede from PNG a fortnight earlier—which points to more uncertainty.

Then there is the copper price. Last year another 10,000 tonnes of metal flowed into the London Metal Exchange warehouses raising the total to a new peak of 345,000 tonnes. With metal stocks in Japan now, with available scrap, probably around 400,000 tonnes, any hopes of the supply pipeline running short are now being run up the price beyond the sterling depreciation fluctuations would appear to be optimistic.

Meanwhile, Bougainville could earn around 15c for the current year which with the shares at 90p indicates a prospective p/e ratio of 10, and a dividend assuming the reduced interim of 5c is repeated, of 6.7 per cent. It remains an unattractive investment.

Interim: 1975 (1974)  
Capitalization £240m  
Sales \$A83.8m (\$A168m)  
Pre-tax profits \$A28.6m (\$A119m)  
Dividend gross \$A5c (10c)  
\*Australian equivalent of Papua New Guinea currency.

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## Will planning agreements help or hinder?

The Government yesterday put forward its proposals for the shape of the system of planning agreements it hopes to introduce as a part of the workings of the Industry Bill which is on the point of becoming law.

The proposals contain few shocks, something which is reinforced by the conciliatory, almost obsequious, tone towards the corporate sector which has been used in the writing of the consultative document. None the less they provide the first clear outlines of how this administration intends to use the powers given it under a measure which has been both praised and reviled as being of revolutionary significance to government's dealings with the private sector.

The message which the Government is clearly trying to project is that the planning agreement system is designed to help industry, not to hamper it. As well as asking for information from the companies, the industry, which will be drawn up on the basis of annual discussions, there will be a much freer flow of information about how the Government expects the industry to develop both in the United Kingdom and in the world as a whole.

Indeed, a promise of detailed reviews of the year ahead, sector forecasts, a five-year projection for the economy and an assessment of how world trade will develop in the very near future are all in the list of topics which the agreements are expected to cover.

Nor is it intended to be a one-way process. Companies can press government for changes in policy, thus increasing the input of industry into the making of policy. There are, perhaps, three points that ought to be made about this.

The first is that it will require absolute honesty on the part of government in its economic forecasting. In the past there has been a reluctance to admit that policies are going wrong and a dogged determination to stick to such commitments as given the effective 10 per cent cut in output of metal and, more important, the slump in the copper price over the last year. Against an average price of £1.095 for the first half of 1974 that for the latest period was only £0.72 a tonne. At the net level, however, there was a marginal amelioration due to a drop in the tax charge from 35 to 30 per cent.

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## Industry steps up its efforts to attract more young scientists

Improbable as it may seem, there are some subjects on which the Government, the Confederation of British Industry, the professional engineering institutions and the Science Research Council are unanimous. One such is the need to attract more bright students from the schools, colleges and universities into the scientific and engineering areas of industry.

This is a perennial problem, but one which is now being tackled as a matter of urgency. The present situation is so bad, and the future prospects so alarming, it is being pointed out, that the country can no longer afford to ignore the implications of this basic weakness.

The catalyst for this intensified effort is an organization called the Inter-Departmental Committee on Publicity for Engineering and Technology. The chairman is Mr Ronald Fairclough, Director-General of the CBI. A serious decline in the popularity of science and technology subjects.

In higher education it has been suggested that a more even distribution of students between the polytechnics and the universities would benefit industry. The present strong imbalance in favour of the universities is good for research and development, but bad for industry's overall innovative and market performance.

Mr Kenneth Durran, a professional engineer who is rector of Huddersfield Polytechnic, argues that university engineering courses are designed to produce people who are good analysts. Equally important in industrial teams are good synthesizers—the people who can design, create and innovate.

Mr Adamson and others have pointed out that the prosperity of Britain depends on efficient and progressive industry, which in turn depends on highly developed technologies applied by the best trained men and women.

This "national interest" argument alone is unlikely to carry much weight with most of the young people themselves. They will need to be convinced that technology offers scope for creativity and satisfaction in developing worthwhile systems for today and tomorrow.

This, essentially, is the task which the Government, the CBI, the professional engineering institutions, the Science Research Council and the others involved have set themselves.

Professor John Coates, chairman of the Council of Engineering Institutions, puts the problem even more urgently: "The present situation in schools and universities is really frightening. We have barely enough engineers and technologists to maintain our economy at the present level and the numbers opting for science and mathematics in the schools is dwindling rapidly."

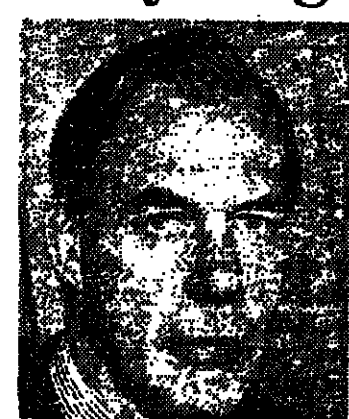
"I am not thinking only of chartered engineers, but more of technicians, engineers and technicians."

As the population increases, Professor Coates argues, reasonable environmental conditions can be maintained only through the development of more advanced public services—all of which depend absolutely on improving technology.

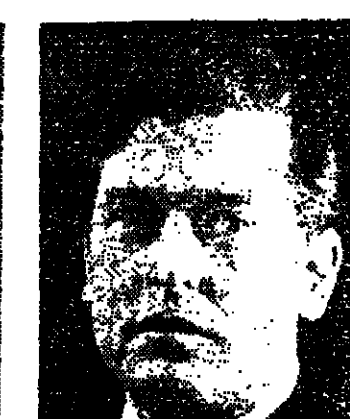
In a densely populated industrial society such as ours, he comments, "at least half the working population at all levels must be concerned with technology in one form or another just to maintain our existing quality of life, without any hope of improving it."

Professor Coates goes on to consider the needs of the developing countries. The capital goods required to double their standard of living within 20 years would take 10 per cent of all the manufacturing capacity of the developed countries.

Thus the need for more engineers and technologists is clearly urgent in the extreme, if



Mr Campbell Adamson, Director General of the CBI: "A serious decline in the popularity of science and technology subjects."



Mr Kenneth Durran, Rector of Huddersfield Polytechnic: "Analytical courses are demanding and produce good scholars, Mr Durran says, but at the same time they perhaps inhibit many students and prevent them from developing their creative talents. Some, it is said, 'produce the model answer two weeks after the contact has gone elsewhere'."

a clash between the developed and the developing countries is to be averted.

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That jibe is doubtless an exaggeration, but Mr Durran insists that over-analysis and calculated risk are not easy bedfellows. This is why the polytechnics are trying to develop education which is more relevant to industry—aimed at producing "doers" rather than scholars.

Whatever the opinions and arguments of the industrial professional and academic experts who are concerned with the problem, their success in solving it will depend on achieving convincing and effective contact with the young people themselves—and this in the schools rather than in higher education.

This contact is now being intensified via magazines, films and exhibitions, and through the wide range of industry/school "link" schemes mounted by the CBI. The committee's restyled magazine Project, in particular, has emerged as a well-produced practical engineering publication aimed at fourth to sixth formers.

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### BRITISH TAR PRODUCTS LIMITED

| Years ended 31st March | 1974      | 1975        |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Profits before Tax     | £ 757,589 | £ 1,102,509 |
| Earnings per share     | 4.78p     | 6.68p       |
| Dividends per share    | 1.00p     | 2.05p       |

- All three divisions, Storage, Chemical Manufacturing and Chemical Merchandising contributed to the 45% rise in profits.
- The Company envisages significant investment in the Chemical Manufacturing Division during the next 2 years.
- Results for the first half of the current year are expected to be similar to those for the same period last year but new plant should contribute to the second half of the year.
- The Company's spread of interests and strong management team makes it well placed for the future.

P. H. Lloyd, Chairman.

Copies of the report are available from the Secretary, 123 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA.

## Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.

武田薬品工業株式会社

| FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1975 |         |   |         |
|--|---------|---|---------|
| Yen Millions   |         | Yen Millions  |         |
| Property, plant and equipment, less depreciation     | 55,504  | Issued capital of 497,980,382 shares                                  | 24,899  |
| Investments and advances                             | 35,147  | Capital and revenue reserves  | 120,157 |
| Current assets                                       | 195,153 |   | 145,056 |
| Less current liabilities                             | 103,855 | Net sales   | 264,222 |
| Other assets   | 15,747  | Operating profits   | 24,882  |
|  | 197,696 | Interest, dividends and other income less interest and other expenses | 3,222   |
| Less retirement and severance indemnities            | 35,970  |   | 28,104  |
| Long-term debt                                       | 16,670  | Provision for income taxes  | 14,580  |
|  | 145,056 | Net earnings  | 13,524  |

Semi annual cash dividends: 6 months to 30th September, 1974, ¥3.75 per share—¥1,867 million; 6 months to 31st March, 1975, ¥3.75 per share—¥1,867 million. This last dividend is not reflected in the above figures.

Copies of the Annual Report are available from Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 33 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BH.

## Business Diary: Cockles and muscles • Danger man

Business Diary's tale of fishy sales at the Department of Consumer Protection has apparently been followed by a change of managerial attitude such as will firm the cockles of the electrical trade's heart. The department, we wrote, aimed to forbid the sale of electrical items not meeting a new standard, among them the low-wattage thermally-controlled immersion heaters used by fanciers of electrical fish and brewers of me-made beer.

This cut to the quick the four fish makers, Interpet of Woking, Springfield Electrical Marlow, Singleton Brothers Penryn, Cornwall, and C. Leon of Nantwich. According to the makers, the department's intentions were not made clear until June, and although they sent out that it took up to three years to design, test and tool, an extension was refused at month.

But last night, however, it seems that Alan Williams, the Minister of State at the department, assured officials of the Association of Manufacturers Domestic Electrical Appliances that such items as the heaters may now be made until next year and sold until October.

This, and the possibility of a clinical consultation committee which gives the manufacturer a chance to voice reservations about the proposed new standard, have so gratified the makers that they no longer seem to send a formal complaint to the Secretary of State,

Mrs Shirley Williams, on the way the episode had been conducted by officials.

On Tuesday Business Diary reported Neville Carrington, managing director of Interpet, as saying that under the department's proposals 3,000 jobs and the lives of up to 20 million per fish would have been at risk, since there were no heaters about which satisfied the department's new requirement.

Charles Schiller, of Springfield Electrical, said last night that without an extension he would have to close down after half a century in the business. September, he pointed out, was normally the start of the season in which the previous six months' production would be sold.

In the light of the department's earlier plans, dealers holding stocks were trying to unload them, while those whose shelves were empty were afraid to buy any more.

And while we're on the subject of pet hate, the imposition of VAT on pet foods was a little hard on many people. However, one thing it appears to have done is to give Business Diary a chance to report that not all orders are being VAT as an excuse to push up prices—as some might have believed from some reports.

There is for instance the butcher who is currently advertising a list of cheap cuts. A notice on his counter cabinet says that were he to point out that some of the stuff would make excellent pet food, and were customers to take him at

his word, he would then be obliged to add 8 per cent VAT to the price. He therefore adds that he declines to make any such suggestion.

ICI's stake

It is now almost a year since Sir Jack Callard, then chairman of ICI, dispatched a strong letter to the group's shareholders and employees attacking the "great dangers" that lay ahead in plans being laid by a select committee for the extension of state control and intervention in British industry.

Sir Jack's opposition lay not so much in the realms of political theory as in the











**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*"Afore ye go"*

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

هكذا آمن الرجل



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**FOR SALE AND WANTED**

"(20-33¢ per sq. yd.)"

**CARPETS**

**Ideal Home (Polyamide, Fil  
Seis**

Hall's multi-use sponge variety  
of mail service, including  
furniture in stock, when select  
stock limited. Includes  
primary national prices-matching in  
stock. Includes delivery  
cash and carry. Picking  
up and delivery service  
Home address service  
Home office  
STY 8325, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

**SAPPHIRE CARPETS  
AND FURNITURE  
WAREHOUSE**

14-16 Unbridge Road, Felling  
(Car Park alongside Felling  
Town Hall)

**RINGO OR ROBIN LTD**

Are selling off their selected  
and discontinued items from  
their range of stainless steel  
products at greatly reduced  
prices.

**143 Grosvenor Rd., S.W.  
(Home Wood)  
01-821 9486**

Down by the riverside near  
Victoria Bridge 5 minutes  
from St. James Station  
a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Closed to  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Items include mirror, side  
boards, Occasional tables, bar  
units, and china and back-  
gammon, etc.

**CARPET SALE**

Heavy quality contract  
carpet £1.99 yd. inc. VAT.  
Light quality Standard carpet  
from £1.25 yd.

[illegible]

8.20 am, News. 8.22, Par  
6.40, Prayer. 6.45, Today.  
News. 7.27, Sportsdesk.  
Today's Papers. 7.45, Thous  
the Day. 7.55, Weather.  
News. 8.27, Sportsdesk.  
Today's Papers. 8.45, Yester

BBC Radio London, local  
 national news, entertainment,  
 music. 6.9 M VHF. 206 M.  
 London Broadcasting, news  
 information station. 97.3 UHF.  
 M.  
 Capital Radio, 24-hour  
 news and features station.  
 VHF, 104 M.

**AGE (WATERINGBURY)**

2017 年 4 月 20 日 星期五



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**ENTS WITH IN ONE OF THE SEA**  
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**R.V.E.L.**  
London, W.2  
7. Airline

**RES for hire,**  
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qualified mil-  
at 12th. Kirk  
57.

**BIRDS**  
Excellent pro-  
fine breeding  
and com-  
ready now.

**HIRE, 15.2.5**  
to with cor-  
nights - 140  
**DONKEY**, up-  
to 100 lbs - 140  
could deliver.  
es, excellent  
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**BEAUTY**

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**AT THE**

**ANCHAGES:**  
ST., W.1  
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**MONZ**

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**WANTED**  
**WESTON Baby**  
Good condition  
to 100 lbs - 140  
**MOLTES appl-**  
BRITANNIA,  
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